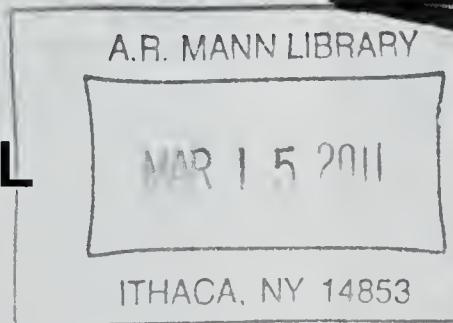


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# e Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 77, No. 1 January 2011

### THE MONTH: December

Mike DeSha

According to Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service, December was "a cold and bleak month for western New York." It was a dramatic change from the mild weather prevalent earlier in the year. December's average temperature of 26.2 °F was 3.6 colder than normal. This was Buffalo's first cooler-than-normal month since last February. It was the coldest December in ten years and the 3<sup>rd</sup> coldest December in the last 21 years. A stretch of 17 consecutive days this month (13<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>) where the temperatures were freezing or below is the second longest such run in history; a stretch of 19 days occurred in 1989. No records were set this month and the monthly minimum temperature was 10 °F.

Precipitation totaled 2.72 inches, 1.08 inches less than the normal 3.8 inches for December. Almost half, 1.24 inches, of this fell in heavy rain during the month's first few hours. There was another rain event on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the remainder of the precipitation fell as snow.

Snowfall totaled 32.0 inches at the airport, about 6 inches above normal. All but approximately 5 inches fell during the first two weeks and nearly all of this was lake-effect. Amounts varied widely from 20 inches in the North Towns to 50 inches just south and east of the city. The difference was due to the major weather event of the month (and the year), an intense lake-effect snowstorm occurring within the first 2 days of the month that set up and remained stationary for some 30 hours. Central Erie County was smothered with 2 to 3 feet of snow. The gradient was very sharp with little or no snow falling from central Buffalo and North Cheektowaga northward, while up to 39 inches fell in Lancaster, Depew and South Buffalo. The Buffalo Airport saw amounts ranging from only 2 inches on its northwest boundary to 10 inches on its southeast

border. The narrow five-mile-wide band of snow caused the closing of the New York State Thruway for 24 hours just south and southeast of Buffalo, stranding hundreds of

motorists overnight. Nuisance lake-effect snows were nearly constant thereafter, with another storm dropping 4 to 6 inches on the metro area on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the final appreciable snow of the month. Snow covered the ground the entire month except for early on the 1<sup>st</sup> and late on the 31<sup>st</sup>, so the region had a white Christmas, its 3<sup>rd</sup> in the last 5 years and 7<sup>th</sup> in the last 10 years.

December is normally a gloomy month with an average of only 25% of possible sunshine, but this year only 15% of the possible was received, making it the dreariest month since December of 1986. Winds were light throughout the month. Lake Erie temperature fell to 33 °F at month's end. Some ice formed in the harbor, but the eastern basin remained open.

"Coldness and bleakness" didn't seem to affect birders who found a number of interesting species that were also staying through the cold and bleak weather. On December 4, Mark Kurtis spotted two Snow Geese in Randolph. Just before the year ended, two banded Trumpeter Swans were seen at Port Colborne, Ontario, by the Farnans and Marcia Jacklin. King found an adult male King Eider at Port Weller, Ontario, on December 11 and another King Eider was seen by Carlson, et.al. at Point Breeze from December 19<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Watson and Jim Landau documented an Eared Grebe seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, respectively, at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. Watson also counted a raft of 645 Ruddy Ducks on his visit to the



King Eider photographed by Tim King at Port Weller, ONT on Dec. 11.

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson

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the same day in Lewiston, Mike Hamilton was "amazed to see" ..."3 Sandhill Cranes flying overhead in fairly close formation all pale gray with their long thin necks and head stretched straight out in front and their feet trailing well behind their short stubby tails."

Three shorebird species were identified this month. A record late juvenile Spotted Sandpiper was seen at Port Weller, Ontario by King on the 11<sup>th</sup> and again by Charlton on the 13<sup>th</sup>. D'Anna found a Purple Sandpiper on the 4<sup>th</sup> and then 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> at Niagara Falls, Ontario, while Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson found 3 Dunlins at Fort Erie, Ontario on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The assortment of gull species flocking to the Niagara River continues to provide excitement for those who are into identifying gulls. The large aggregation of Bonaparte's Gulls can boggle the mind. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pawlicki saw 4000 individuals at Buffalo and Gochfield, et.al. observed a flock of 19,000 at Squaw Island on the 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the now expected gulls such as Little Gull, Glaucous Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Iceland Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake seen throughout the month, Pawlicki documented a California Gull that he and others observed at Goat Island on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Willie D'Anna closely documented and photographed a Thayer's Gull seen at Goat Island on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Differentiation between Thayer's and Iceland Gulls is notoriously difficult, but it should be noted that

Treatment Plant on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As documented by Gerry Binsfeld, 4 Black Vultures accompanying 2 Turkey Vultures were seen by a group of Canadian birders on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Black Vultures were seen again near the Floral Clock on the Niagara Parkway during the Niagara Falls CBC that took place on December 27<sup>th</sup>, leading to speculation that perhaps they were roosting somewhere in the Niagara Gorge. Marcia Jacklin documented the sighting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Almost all previous records are sightings during spring migration and these are the first December records of Black Vulture in the archives as well as a maximum count for this species. On

the Statisticians continue to accept well documented reports of Thayer's Gull outside of the noteworthy records. They are listed after the main body of records.

Other rare gulls were posted on the list-serves, but were not verified. Willie D'Anna has posted a plea to other birders and especially to the community of gull watchers that deserves wide dissemination. He wrote: "We tried to find the mega-rarities that have been reported recently - first-winter and adult Mew "Common" Gulls and Slaty-backed Gull - but came up empty. If you want people to have the best chance of relocating your mega-rarity, then when you report it to the bird lists, PLEASE provide a reasonably THOROUGH DESCRIPTION of the bird that includes: 1-Size relative to Herring or Ring-billed; 2-Headstreaking; 3-Leg color; 4-Bill shape and pattern on the bill; 5-Mantle shade relative to other species; 6-Eye color; 7-Wingtip pattern; and 8-Other details specific to your rarity such as the tertial crescent on a Slaty-backed Gull or Common Gull compared to other species. In addition there is usually other information that could possibly help (what species the rare gull was associating with, what it was doing, did it have any noticeable habits, what time of day was it). I know this means a little extra effort but it is especially important for the rare gulls because gulls are so extremely variable and hybrids are relatively numerous. In addition most variations and hybrids are not shown in standard field guides. Finally, if you are able to obtain photos, try to post them on a web site for public viewing (for example, the OFO web site for birds in Ontario)."

If we were to initiate such a title, the Bird-of-the-Month designation would have to be a tie between the previously-mentioned Black Vultures and the Yellow-breasted Chat seen at a feeder in Buffalo on the 12<sup>th</sup> by D'Anna and Potter et.al. This is the first December record of Yellow-breasted Chat in the archives. The latest previous record was November 29, 1964. There are also more recent records in early November. Chats are hard to find in July and August after they have stopped singing; however, their migration extends into late fall as noted in the records above. Photographed by Betsy Potter and described by D'Anna, the chat was "larger than a Chickadee and smaller than a Cardinal (no comparisons with any other birds), appearing sparrow-sized. Thick bill and longish tail for a warbler. Olive green and unmarked above (the head was slightly grayer), bright yellow throat and breast and upper belly, white lower belly and undertail coverts. The head showed obvious thick white "spectacles", black lores with some of this black spilling over along the edge of the throat. Along the very edge of the throat, between the yellow throat and black was an indistinct line of white."

Snow Buntings returned in force with large flocks being reported by Morien, Goetz, Morgante, D'Anna and Callaghan. Two Purple Finches seen by Lazarczyk on the 1<sup>st</sup> were the only report of this species. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin sightings seem to presage an irruptive winter for these species. There was a single report of White-winged Crossbill on the 6<sup>th</sup> seen by Cunningham in East Amherst and it was a pleasure to see Potter and D'Anna's record of Evening Grosbeak on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at their feeder in Wilson.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	4	2	Randolph	Kurtis
Cackling Goose	3	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Wormington, Overman
"	9	3	Rushford Lake	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	11	1	Port Weller (Ont)	King
"	19	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki et al
Mute Swan	4	6	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante
"	11	2	Niagara Falls	Hartquist et al
"	18	3	Java	Rising et al
"	19; 31	6; 11	Pt. Breeze	Carlson; Boback
* <u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	31	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Jacklin; B&J Farnan
Tundra Swan	2	33	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	13; 19	400; 122	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg et al; Watson
"	16	235	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Gadwall	2	6	Goat I.	Watson
"	3	16	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	9	11	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
"	17	17	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
American Wigeon	9	2	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
American Black Duck	3	22	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	9	33	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
Northern Shoveler	3; 5	23; 10	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie; Carlson
Northern Pintail	3	20	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	9	5	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
"	10 - 13	1	Clarence	Lewis
"	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Green-winged Teal	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	5	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin
"	9	14	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
Redhead	19	126	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	3	13	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	31	3	Port Colborne (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
Greater Scaup	2	450	Niagara Falls	Watson
Lesser Scaup	2	7	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	3	24	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
King Eider	11F	1 ad m	Port Weller (Ont)	King
"	19 - 23	1	Pt. Breeze	Carlson, Morien et al
White-winged Scoter	13	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black Scoter	8	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Pawlicki
"	28; 31	1	Pt. Breeze	Callaghan; Boback
Bufflehead	3	15	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
Common Goldeneye	2	300	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	19	311	Chippawa (Ont)	Watson, Litwin
Hooded Merganser	3	17	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
Common Merganser	3	34	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	9	51	Rushford Lake	Pawlicki
"	19	105	Chippawa (Ont)	Watson, Litwin

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-br. Merganser	2	70	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	9	1	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
"	19	4	Pt. Breeze	Dart, Beattie
Ruddy Duck	3	645	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	9	3	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki
"	9	2	Rushford Lake	Pawlicki
"	30	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	31	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Red-throated Loon	2	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Beattie
"	4	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Pawlicki et al
Common Loon	5; 8	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; Pawlicki
"	5	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Seburn, BonEnfant
"	17	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	19	1	Chippawa (Ont)	Watson, Litwin
Red-necked Grebe	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Eared Grebe	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Landau et al
D.-crested Cormorant	28	4	Lewiston (Ont)	D'Anna
<u>Black Vulture</u>	5	4	Queenston (Ont)	Binsfeld et al
"	27	4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Jacklin, Campbell, et al
Turkey Vulture	5	2	Queenston (Ont)	Binsfeld et al
Bald Eagle	2	2	Leon	G&R Lazarczyk
"	5, 11, 31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	8	1 imm	Silver Creek	Pawlicki
"	10	2 ad	Caneadea	Pawlicki
"	28	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	4 - 31	1	Throughout WNY	7 other records
Northern Harrier	1	12	East Shelby	Morien
"	17	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
Northern Goshawk	17	1	Colden	Newton
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	1	Carroll	Berry
Rough-legged Hawk	2 - 29	1 - 2	East Shelby	Morien
"	16	1	Cambria	D'Anna
"	18	1	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
"	20	1	Shadigee	Morien
"	30, 31	1	Carroll	Berry
Merlin	2	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
"	3	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Gordon
Peregrine Falcon	1, 3	1 ad	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	8	2 ad	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Sandhill Crane	27	3	Lewiston	Hamilton
Spotted Sandpiper	11; 13	1 juv	Port Weller (Ont)	King, Charlton
Purple Sandpiper	4, 28	1, 2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Dunlin	13L	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-leg. Kittiwake	17	1	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki
Bonaparte's Gull	1, 3	4000	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	5	19000	Squaw I.	Gochfield et al
Little Gull	1	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki, D'Anna
"	20; 28	1; 1	Queenston (Ont)	Smith et al; D'Anna et al
<u>California Gull</u>	4	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15, 19	14, 10	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	13	1(1 <sup>st</sup> winter)	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	11, 28	2, 4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	19	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
"	28	4	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	1; 19	3; 3	East Shelby	C&G Morien; Dart, Beattie
"	18	2	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	19	1	Ellington	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter et al
"	29	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter et al
Northern Shrike	19	1	East Shelby	Dart, Beattie
"	27	1	Ransomville	Morgante
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Baker
"	31	1	Alabama	Morien
Common Raven	18	1	Allegany	Baird
Horned Lark	4; 5	40; 75	Bethany	Stone et al; Beattie
"	5	20	Shelby	Newton
"	24	20	Sheridan	Goetz
"	28	18	Barre	Morien
Carolina Wren	11, 27	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	26	1	Pomfret	Goetz
"	27	2	Porter	D'Anna et al
Winter Wren	4; 11	1; 1	Goat I.	Pawlicki; D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Eastern Bluebird	11, 19	3, 2	Gerry	Berry
"	28	7	Alexander	Dart
Hermit Thrush	2	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna
American Robin	2	50	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	40	Shelby	Stone, Beattie
"	31	123	Tonawanda	Watson
Gray Catbird	8	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Pawlicki
N. Mockingbird	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Yellow-br. Chat	12	1	Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter et al
Eastern Towhee	28, 29	1	Grand Island	Burke
Chipping Sparrow	20	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Field Sparrow	2, 3	2, 1	Alexander	Fox
Swamp Sparrow	28	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
White-cr. Sparrow	5, 8	3, 3	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	1	Colden	Newton
Lapland Longspur	5	1	Shelby	Newton
"	28	1	Barre	Morien
Snow Bunting	2	275	Shelby	Morien
"	24	100	Sheridan	Goetz
"	27	160	Ransomville	Morgante
"	27	60	Porter	D'Anna
"	28	65	Barre	Morien
"	28	23	Pt. Breeze	Callaghan
"	1 - 30	1 - 19	Throughout WNY	9 other records
Red-w. Blackbird	19; 30	6; 3	Tonawanda	Pawlicki et al; Watson
"	19	44	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Litwin
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Brown-head. Cowbird	1 - 31	3 - 7	East Shelby (f)	Morien
"	11	7	Gerry	Berry
"	28	3	Shelby	Morien
"	29	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	31	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Purple Finch	1	2	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
White-winged Crossbill	6	1	East Amherst	Cunningham
Common Redpoll	25	1	Colden	Newton
"	29	9	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	29 - 31	4	East Shelby	Morien
Pine Siskin	1 - 31	1 - 3	East Shelby (f)	Morien
"	1 - 31	40 - 10	Wilson (f)	Potter et al
"	9	11	Salamanca	Baird
"	27	23	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	28	16	Barre	Morien
"	2 - 31	1 - 7	Throughout WNY	9 other records
Evening Grosbeak	17, 18	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:  
New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:  
Total for the year 2010:

281  
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**282**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	11	1 ad	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
<b>Addenda (2010):</b>				
Ruffed Grouse	Feb 5	13	Allegany SP-Wolf Run	Reed
Sandhill Crane	<u>Jul 18</u>	2	Watts Flats WMA	J&S Berry
Willet	Sep 1	2	Barcelona	Harrison
Wilson's Phalarope	Jun 4	1	Sherman	Zimlich et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>Jun 6</u>	4 imm	Somerset	D'Anna
Olive-s. Flycatcher	Sep 11	1	Amherst SP	Hollister
White-thr. Sparrow	<u>Jun 14</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
<b>Addenda (2009):</b>				
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	Dec 20	1 3 <sup>rd</sup> -basic	Goat I.	Pawlicki et al
<b>Addenda (1997):</b>				
Short-eared Owl	May 20	3 yg + n	North Collins	Feltz

## Statisticians Note Regarding Addenda and the Year (2010) in Review

*Mike Morgante*

The 2010 addenda to the noteworthy records did not add any new species to the year list; however, many of the records are indicative of recent trends, if not changes, to the avifauna of the B.O.S. Study Area. Sandhill Crane sightings in summer have increased in recent years. The two seen at Watts Flats WMA by Jim & Seth Berry in July follow multiple sightings at the same location in June and in previous summers. David Harrison reported two Willets at Barcelona Harbor on the first of September; reports of this species along the Lake Erie shoreline have been more frequent over the past decade. There have been increased reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and immature large gulls in general in late spring. The four immatures documented by Willie D'Anna in early June are a remarkable number for that date. White-throated Sparrow seems to be slowly increasing in the Southern Tier but a mid-June record along Lake Ontario is clearly unexpected. Jeff Reed's count of 13 Ruffed Grouse while hiking the Wolf Run area of Allegany State Park is encouraging as numbers seem to have dwindled for this game bird.

There were two records included in the addenda from prior to 2010. The most interesting was photographic documentation of a Short-eared Owl nest and young from May 1997. Andy Francisco, a work colleague of mine, notified me that several Short-eared Owls were being seen regularly in late March 2010 on a property in the general vicinity of Winter's Pond (a.k.a. Langford Pond) in the Town of North Collins. When two owls were still present in early April, I encouraged him to take notice for potential breeding activity. In mentioning this to his girlfriend, Lori Feltz, who has lived in the area, she said that they did nest once and

provided this photo, which includes the digital date for May 20, 1997 in the corner of the photo (see attached). Alas, the owls moved on and did not breed there last year but we now have evidence of a successful nest for the B.O.S. study area, where nesting has been very rare for several decades.

The other prior record is that of a Thayer's Gull in third-basic plumage from December 2009. Jim Pawlicki took numerous photographs of the gull and recently prepared a verification report for B.O.S. and NYSARC. In the past year, a few members have questioned if the status of handling Thayer's Gull reports has changed. The answer is no. The 'Special Note' on page six of the Verification Date Guide still applies. The difference is that several members have recently taken close photographs and provided verification reports that are supportive of Thayer's Gull identification, to the extent possible.

The 2010 species, subspecies, and named hybrids total stands at 282 species, which is ten less than the previous two years. The lower numbers are generally due to fewer uncommon and rare species. The only species on the B.O.S. field checklist that were *not*

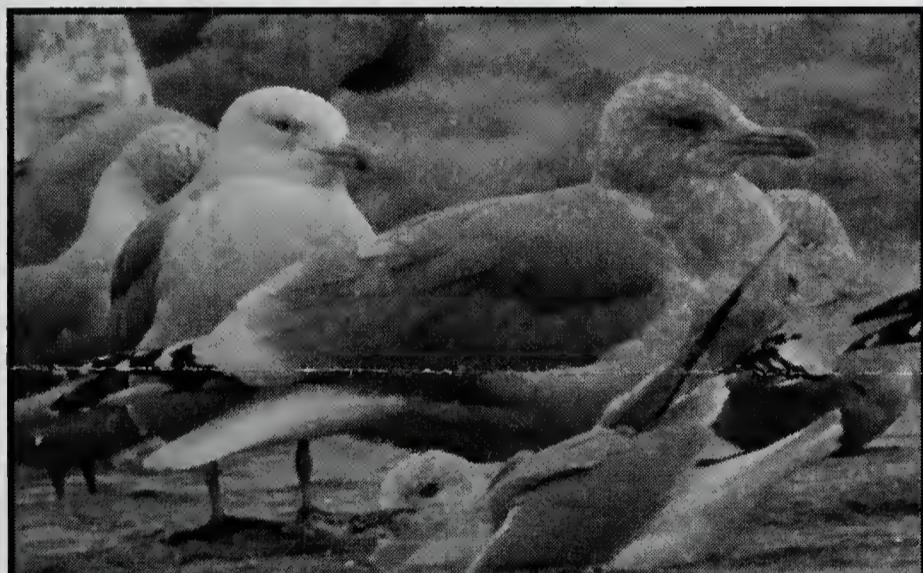


Short-eared Owl nestlings photographed by Lori Feltz in the Town of North Collins on May 20, 1997.

recorded in 2010 include: Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Western Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Sabine's Gull, Barn Owl, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill. Two species were documented for the first time in the B.O.S. Study Area in 2010: Kirtland's Warbler and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Very rare species with accepted records in 2010 included: Barnacle Goose, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, King Rail, Ruff, "Common" Gull, Cave Swallow, and Lark Sparrow.

Tim Baird and I would like to thank everyone that submitted sightings in this past year. Your contributions make up the noteworthy records and the ornithological record of the Society. We are grateful for the work that Bruce Chilton contributes as the Compiler; he spends many hours each month compiling the sightings from your letters and e-mails. We'd also like to recognize the assistance that Willie D'Anna provided at our request on a few challenging verification report reviews and Tim and I look forward to his contributions as a Statistician for 2011. We also appreciate that Kayo Roy, Jim Pawlicki, David Suggs, and Jim Berry helped us obtain verification reports.

We reviewed 147 verification reports in 2010, approximately 43 of which were multiple reports for the same bird or birds. Approximately 96% of the verification reports that we reviewed were accepted, including multiple verification reports for the same bird (e.g. eight reports for the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck). If you remove the multiple reports, it was approximately 92.5% acceptance. Once again, the primary reason for reports not accepted was the description lacked enough detail to confidently eliminate all other species.



Additional photographs from December, 2010:

Left(Top & Bottom) Side- and Back-view of Thayer's Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna at Goat Island on Dec. 11.

(Top) Northern Goshawk photographed by Chris Newton in Holland, NY on Dec. 17. (Middle) Yellow-breasted Chat photographed by Betsy Potter at a feeder in Buffalo on Dec. 12. (Bottom) White-winged Crossbill photographed by Cunningham in East Amherst on Dec. 5.

# January 2011 Waterfowl Count

## Summary

Jim Landau

### Overview

The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955, making this the 57<sup>th</sup> count for the BOS. The count area includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and any productive open interior bodies of water. The 9-day count period begins on the Saturday just prior to the Martin Luther King holiday, which is always the third Monday in January. Thus, the count period this year was January 15-23, with the target date of Sunday, January 16. Final results of the statewide count will be published in "The Kingbird" and will also online at <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

### Species Compilation

The table below lists the species observed on this count and their accumulated totals. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the sections are given in parentheses.

Species	Total	Comments
Canada Goose	2044	
Mute Swan	5	
Tundra Swan	648	Record high count
Wood Duck	1	
Gadwall	12	
American Wigeon	2	(C, F1)
American Black Duck	181	
Mallard	4034	
Mallard x Black Duck	3	(F2, Q)
Northern Pintail	2	(F1, I)
Canvasback	13436	
Redhead	886	
Ring-necked Duck	38	
Greater Scaup	27698	Record high count
Lesser Scaup	367	(E2, F2, I)
White-winged Scoter	91	
Long-tailed Duck	1264	
Bufflehead	8247	Record high count
Common Goldeneye	7748	Record high count
Hooded Merganser	191	
Common Merganser	2923	
Red-breasted Merganser	1545	
Ruddy Duck	12	(I)
Red-throated Loon	1	(I)
Pied-billed Grebe	13	
Red-necked Grebe	1	(J)
Double-crested Cormorant	133	(I)
American Coot	93	(I)
Unidentified	3	(H)
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>71627</b>	

### Weather

January 2011 began in Western New York with a near record warm 56 °F on New Years Day. However, temperatures fell to freezing on the 2nd and pretty much remained below freezing for the rest of the month, with only a brief thaw on the 18th. Winds were rather light during the month and Lake Erie gradually filled with ice by the third week and was virtually completely frozen by month's end. Nineteen of twenty days from the 5th to 24th were colder than normal. Extreme cold was restricted to the 22nd through 24th with two sub zero minimums. No records were set, but the reading of -8 °F on the 24th was Buffalo's coldest temperature in 15 years, since -10 °F on Jan 6, 1996.

### Notes

The majority of counters this year were able to survey on the target date of Sunday, January 16, minimizing over- or under-counting on bodies of water like the Niagara River, where huge rafts of waterfowl can easily shift from the American side to the Canadian side with each change of wind direction. This factor may have attributed to record high counts for Tundra Swan and Greater Scaup. The extent of ice cover on Lake Erie also plays a major role in this count, directing waterfowl to areas of open waters.

A review of the full 57 year count record for our region reveals that many species numbers fluctuate with no apparent trending increases or decreases in evidence. For some there are simply not enough individuals tallied to be statistically significant, while others only turn up on the count sporadically. Nonetheless, some population trends do emerge.

Upward trends were evidenced for...

- Tundra Swan continued to enjoy a striking upswing begun over the past decade.
- American Black Duck saw the fourth year of an uptick in numbers, but it is too soon to declare a turnaround of the decline begun in the mid-70s.
- Canvasback saw a fifth year of relative stability after nearly a decade of dramatic swings.
- Redhead numbers were down from last year's maximum high count by nearly 300 individuals, but remain within an upward trend.
- Bufflehead continues a strong upward trend begun six years ago.
- Common Goldeneye continues a strong upward trend begun seven years ago.
- Double-crested Cormorant was down from last year's maximum high count, yet continues to exhibit an impressive upward trend begun in 1991.
- Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup and Hooded Merganser exhibit erratic but gradually increasing numbers.
- Downward trends were evidenced for Canada Goose and Gadwall.
- This year's count of 71627 individuals displaces last year's total as the second highest in count history (the 2001 count holding the record of 71,801 individuals observed).

## Participation in New York's Annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey

Although the January Waterfowl Count no longer overlaps with the National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, we are asked to report any eagle sightings nonetheless. The DEC, in turn, contributes the combined New York State census to the national Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, which is now coordinated nationally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can follow the DEC's winter eagle research on the Internet at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9381.html>

The following 32 Bald Eagle sightings were reported, including an impressive 22 along the Lake Erie shoreline:

1/16/2011

- 1 adult. Location: Niagara River, Fort Erie, ON near Int'l. Railroad Bridge; 2 adults. Location: Niagara River, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON;
- 1 adult. Location: Niagara River, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. Observers: Mike Zebehazy, Doug Happ;
- 1 immature, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Location: Chadakoin River (near the Jamestown/Celoron town line). Observer: Tom Simmons;
- 1 adult. Location: Niagara River (south gate Ft. Niagara State Park). Observers: Robert DeLeon, Chris Kundl; 1 adult. Location: Erie Beach, Fort Erie, Ontario. Observer: Bill Watson, *et al.*;
- 1 adult. Location: Navy Island (Niagara River). Observer: Mike Morgante, Chris Aikos;
- 1 adult. Location: Olean area; 1 adult. Location: Allegheny Reservoir. Observers: Tim Baird, Mike DeSha

1/17/2011

- 14 sub-adults, 8 adults. Location: Sturgeon Point, Evangola SP, Silver Creek, Cattaraugus Creek  
Observers: David Suggs, Debbie Suggs

## Acknowledgements

The compiler wishes to thank the following section leaders (listed first), participants and contributors for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count:

- A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell
- B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): Peter Yoerg, Barbara Henderson
- C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY side: Robert DeLeon, Donna DeLeon, Chris Kundl
- D. NOTL to Niagara Falls, Canadian side: Mike Zebehazy, Doug Happ
- E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr., NY side: John Thill, Mike Hamilton
- E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: Gerry Rising, Mike Galas, Chris Hollister, Kyle Horton, Karen Lewis, Noelle Ronan, Cindy Voelker, Frank Voelker, Nathaniel Young
- F1. Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls: Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker, Art Hannah
- F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Canadian side: Bill Watson, Jim Pawlicki, David Gordon, Marcie Jacklin, Tim Seburn

- G. Grand Island: Michael Morgante, Chris Aikos
- H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek): David Suggs, Deborah Suggs
- I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): Fran Rew, Audrey Horbett
- J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: Bill Seleen, Tom Simmons
- K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus County: Tim Baird, Mike DeSha
- L. Allegany County: Gary Klock
- M. Batavia, NY: Gail Seamans
- N & O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: Ed Ratajczak, Priscilla Sedgwick
- P. Williansville, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, NY: Holly Sweeney, Karen Lewis
- Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery: Tom Connare
- R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: Elizabeth Wells, James Rozanski



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## March - April Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Mar. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.** Jim Berry, President of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History ([www.rtpi.org](http://www.rtpi.org)), will present "Birding Field Guides: the Beginning and the End? How it became to be and what the future holds for the most basic of all birding tools." Jim will address the evolution of the field guide, their authors, and where digital devices fit into field ornithology. Jim is the foremost expert on America's famous avian artist, Roger Tory Peterson.

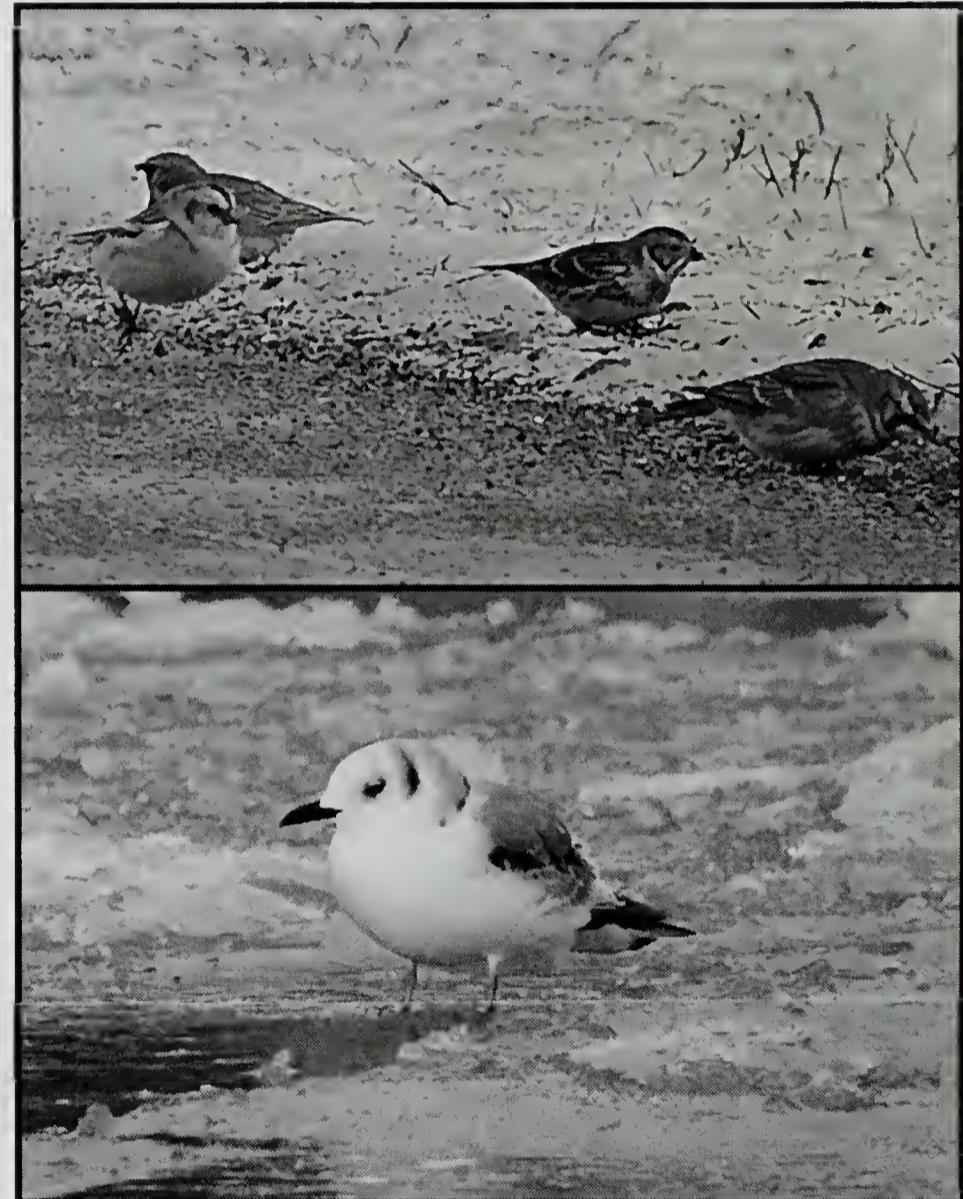
**Mar. 26: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna 716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8AM. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

**Apr. 10: April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate. Compiler Holly Sweeney 716-639-0158 or [holran171@verizon.net](mailto:holran171@verizon.net)

**Apr. 13: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Students of the Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology will present their research findings. The students are sponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology at Canisius College. Catherine Alsford will present "Breeding biology of a newly-established population of House Wrens," Brynne Stumpe will present "Does House Wren singing rate change with stage in breeding cycle?", Kyle Horton will present "Flight calls in wood-warblers: Do migrants respond to conspecific calls?", and Dorothy Fatunmbi will present a biological illustration poster on "How is plumage used to determine age and sex of birds?"

**Apr. 17 Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout.** For spring hawk flight and migrating songbirds. This is a joint trip with the Rochester Birding Association (RBA). Learn to identify even the most distant raptors and meet some great new people, too! Meet in Braddock Bay Park Lot off East Manitou Road at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Bill Watson 716-695-2820 (BOS) and Bob Spahn 585-671-5690 (RBA).

**Apr. 27: 7PM. Vaughan Lecture at the Buffalo Science Museum.** Scott Weidensaul will present 'Of a Feather: A (Brief) History of American Birding'.



(Top) Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Horned Lark photographed by Chris Newton in the Town of Shelby on Dec. 5. (Bottom) Black-legged Kittiwake photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo, NY on Dec. 17.

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# e Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 2 February 2011

### THE MONTH: January

Jim Pawlicki

According to the Buffalo National Weather Service, January 2011 was "its usual wintry self and featured near relentless cold," bringing below average temperatures and constant snowfall to the Western New York region. The month's mean temperature averaged out at 21.3 degrees Fahrenheit, 3.2 degrees below normal, while total precipitation was 1.89 inches, 1.27 inches below normal. Snow fell nearly every day of the month, and was measurable on 25 out of the 31 days with a total of 29.8 inches, 3.7 inches above normal. Sunshine totaled about 40% in January, slightly above average and a notable improvement from a bleak 15% in December. Lake Erie gradually froze over by the third week with the eastern basin becoming completely frozen by month's end.

Notable waterfowl observations early in the month included groups of two and three Trumpeter Swans at Port Colborne (Ont.) and Dunkirk Harbor on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Beginning with the Ontario Trumpeter Swan re-introduction program in 1982, the population of Trumpeter Swans in the province has now grown to over 1,500 individuals as of fall 2009. The large majority of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan population breeds and winters in the province, although many have successfully made seasonal movements to and have possibly bred in nearby states such as Ohio,

Pennsylvania, and New York.

Although Trumpeter Swan has been added on the BOS checklist, the species has yet to be officially added to the New York State checklist based on



uncertainties regarding the origins of breeding Trumpeter Swans in the state and the self-sustainability of the Ontario population. Regardless, as of 2010, it appears that the species has taken a stronghold in eastern Great Lakes and as a result has now become a near annual sight in the BOS Study Area. Other notable waterfowl seen during the month included three separate observations totaling six King Eiders from Port Weller (Ont.), Fort Niagara State Park (shot by hunter),



(Top) Trumpeter Swans photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on Jan. 6. (Bottom) Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed by Brett Ewald in Lyndonville on Feb. 2. The Collared-Dove was first observed there on Jan. 27.

11	<b>The Month</b> Jim Pawlicki
13	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> Bruce Chilton & Statisticians
16	<b>Statisticians' Note</b> Mike Morgante
17	<b>Dunkirk Harbor Field Trip</b> Jim Pawlicki
18	<b>Calendar</b> B. Bogacki & D. Neveu Bill Watson

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson

**Society Officers:**

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and LaSalle Park, Buffalo, in addition to a cooperative immature male Harlequin Duck that spent the latter half of the month at Dunkirk Harbor on Lake Erie.

Dunkirk Harbor continues to be a hotspot for wintering waterbirds as the eastern basin of Lake Erie freezes over in mid-winter. In addition to the previously mentioned Trumpeter Swans and Harlequin Duck, other highlights from the harbor included a long-staying Eared Grebe and Red-throated Loon, along with a cooperative immature Little Gull that was often observed at arms-length as it flew alongside the Central Avenue Pier. Of these species, Eared

Grebe has perhaps the most interesting status at the harbor with the region's first "modern" record of this species in the BOS archives being made here on April 4, 1962 by Able and Rosche. Since that time, the species has been of near regular occurrence at the harbor, having appeared there on average of about one out of every four years throughout the late fall, winter, and early spring months.

In large contrast to January 2010, several Rough-legged Hawks were found throughout the Western New York region this month with ten observations occurring from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. Rare in January, Red-shouldered Hawks seemed to be widespread in the southern half of the region with four observations totaling six individuals made from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> at Darien, Marilla, Glenwood, and Jamestown. Bald Eagles have now become a common winter occurrence with 22 observations of wintering eagles being made from several sites throughout the region. These observations were highlighted by high counts on the 17<sup>th</sup> by Suggs of eight and ten eagles at Sturgeon Point and Evangola State Park, respectively.

Perhaps the most significant observation of the month was the BOS Study Area's first record of Eurasian Collared-Dove, found and photographed by Brett and Sheryl Ewald at their residence in Lyndonville. First observed on the 27<sup>th</sup>, they initially noticed a dove

"slightly larger and stockier than a Mourning Dove" with a "long, square tail" and a "thin black collar or ring on the back of the neck." Additional features such as the silvery gray body plumage, dark gray primaries and undertail coverts, and extensive black tail feather bases were noted and illustrated in photos. These features effectively eliminate African Collared-Dove (formerly known as Ringed Turtle-Dove), a similar species that is commonly held in captivity and not known to be established in North America. Although Eurasian Collared-Doves are also held in captivity, the species establishment in North America and its proven ability to wander and quickly expand its range has now favored the supposition that the majority of vagrant sightings in the northeast are of wild origin. Following this pattern, the species was added to the New York state checklist in 2002, and was quickly followed by four other state records in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007.

Initially documented in early December, a Yellow-breasted Chat frequenting feeders at the residence of Joseph Grabnik in the city of Buffalo was observed until January 21<sup>st</sup>, as reported by Ken Cohen, providing the first January record of the species in the BOS archives. Considering the large majority of Yellow-breasted Chat records in the BOS Study Area are restricted to the spring and summer months, a winter record was unprecedented, but not unexpected, considering small numbers of this species annually wander to and successfully winter along Atlantic coast as far north as the province of Nova Scotia. Most interesting is the fact that the latest prior fall/early winter record of this species was also at a private residence in the city of Buffalo as observed by Mitchell, Reischel, Reed, and Ulrichs from November 27-29, 1964.

Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls made several appearances this month, highlighted by three separate high counts of 100 Common Redpolls early in the month from Newfane, Wilson, and Shelby. Notable in amongst a flock of 60 Common Redpolls in the town of Carlton on the 8<sup>th</sup> was a Hoary Redpoll that was documented by D'Anna and also observed by Morien. An Evening Grosbeak seen by Morgante and Fuhrmann in Orchard Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was also notable considering the regional scarcity of Evening Grosbeaks over the last decade.

Other notable sightings from the month included small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> at a now traditional location in Newfane, a Gray Catbird in Orchard Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fox Sparrow in Porter on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Rusty Blackbirds on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Sherkston (Ont.) and South Park, Buffalo, respectively. I thank Mike Morgante and Bill Watson for their comments and suggestions.

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Sherony, Dominic and J.S. Bolsinger. 2007. "The Status of Trumpeter Swans in New York State in 2007." *The Kingbird* 57.1 (March 2007): 2-8.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1	5	Pt. Breeze	Boback
"	1; 16	2; 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Rew et al; Pawlicki et al
"	11	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	13	2	Celeron	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	29	5	Waterport	Watson, Pawlicki
Trumpeter Swan	2	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Jacklin, B&J Farnan
"	6	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
Tundra Swan	16; 31	350; 386	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Pawlicki
"	16	201	Grand I.	Morgante, Akios
"	16	170	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18	20	Tonawanda	Salembier
Wood Duck	16	1 fem	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	1 m	Tonawanda	Watson
Gadwall	11	12	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	17; 20	2; 4	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew; Mosher
"	26	6	Tonawanda	Watson
American Black Duck	2	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	16	41	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seburn, Watson
"	18; 31	4; 12	Tonawanda	Salembier; Watson
"	29	6	Hartland	Watson
Northern Pintail	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry
"	11	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Baron
Canvasback	9	2500	Niag. Falls to Ft. Erie (Ont)	Burris
"	12; 16	5000; 9120	Grand I.	Lazarczyk; Morgante
Redhead	6; 29	14; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Berry
"	16	355	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	6	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	10	10	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	14	23	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Greater Scaup	18	13000	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki, Watson
Lesser Scaup	8	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry
"	16	346	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	14	Tonawanda	Watson
King Eider	1	2 shot	Fort Niagara SP	Anonymous
"	11	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Akkerman
"	13	3	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Glabicky
Harlequin Duck	22 - 29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Wojewodzki, Landau et al
White-winged Scoter	11	14	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	28	52	Pt. Breeze	Watson
Long-tailed Duck	11	87	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	16	106	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	25	56	Pt. Breeze	Watson
Bufflehead	16	7090	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Watson
Common Goldeneye	16	2944	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	6; 17	84; 121	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Rew

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	88	North Tonawanda	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	16	763	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Rew et al
"	6; 8	17; 25	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers et al; Berry
Red-throated Loon	3 - 17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz et al
Common Loon	16	1	Niagara Falls SP	Berry
Pied-billed Grebe	1; 13	2; 4	Jamestown	Berry; Watson, Pawlicki
"	6, 13	8, 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Horned Grebe	1; 26	1; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Connare
"	29	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry
"	29	6	Shadigee	Wojewodzki, K Landau
Red-necked Grebe	28	1	Wilson	Teal
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	6, 13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
D.-crested Cormorant	6; 10	133; 83	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Mitchell
"	26	3	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Great Blue Heron	16	30	Motor I.	Morgante, Akios
"	17	17	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett et al
"	18	21	Motor & Strawberry Is.	Salembier
"	19	12	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	8; 23	5; 9	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry; Pawlicki, Gordon
"	17	8	Sturgeon Pt.	Suggs
"	17	10	Evangola SP	Suggs
"	2 - 29	1 - 4	BOS region	19 other records
Northern Harrier	16	1 m	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18; 30	1; 1	Tonawanda	Salembier; Watson
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	2	Jamestown	Berry
"	14	2	Darien	Mitchell
"	22	1	Glenwood	J Landau
"	28	1	Manilla	Newton
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1 dark	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	9	1 light	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1 light	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki
"	5 - 29	1	Throughout WNY	7 other records
Merlin	5	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	20	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
"	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Connare, D'Anna
Peregrine Falcon	16	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	22; 30	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Smith; Goetz
American Coot	6; 13	115; 40	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Purple Sandpiper	2	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Little Gull	1	1	Queenston (Ont)	Rew et al
"	6-29	1 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	14	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Horton
Iceland Gull	9; 16	16; 7	Adam Beck Hydro	Carlson; Watson et al
"	22, 30	3, 5	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Thomas
Lesser Black-b. Gull	9	7	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	16	3	Adam Beck Hydro	Pawlicki, Watson
"	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Thomas
Glaucous Gull	11	1	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	5	Adam Beck Hydro	Pawlicki, Watson
"	18	3	Erie Basin Marina	Pawlicki, Watson
<u>Euras. Collared-Dove</u>	27	1	Lyndonville	Ewald
Barred Owl	15	1	Jamestown	Berry
Short-eared Owl	5	1	Shelby	Morien
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	2	1	Poland	Berry
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	1	Sinking Ponds WS	Mitchell
Northern Shrike	6 - 30	1	BOS region	10 records
Horned Lark	14; 29	110; 20	Yates	Beattie; Watson et al
"	20,23,30	40, 45, 95	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	151	Oakfield	Wojewodzki, K Landau
Carolina Wren	1 - 15	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8 - 30	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	12 - 31	1 - 2	Fredonia	Goetz
Winter Wren	9	1	Goat I.	Carlson
Eastern Bluebird	2	4	Orchard Park	Morgante, Fuhrmann
"	2	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	11; 28	2; 2	Porter	Watson et al; D'Anna
"	17	8	Pomfret	Rew, Horbett
"	17	7	Somerset	Salembier
"	17	1	Yates	Salembier
"	29	4	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
American Robin	10	16	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	50	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Watson
"	16, 21	85, 38	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Watson
"	18	11	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	16	Waterport	Pawlicki, Watson
"	30	15	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Gray Catbird	2	1	Orchard Park	Morgante, Fuhrmann
Northern Mockingbird	1; 6	2; 1	Lackawanna	Rew et al; Pawlicki et al
"	17	1	Somerset	Salembier
"	17	1	Alexander	Britton, Dart
Bohemian Waxwing	8, <u>30L</u>	11, 1	Newfane	D'Anna et al; D'Anna
"	11; 17	1; 2	Newfane	Watson; Salembier et al
"	14	7	Wilson	Beattie
Cedar Waxwing	2	60	Orchard Park	Morgante, Fuhrmann
"	8; 17	140; 100	Newfane	Morien et al; Salembier
"	14	200	Wilson	Beattie
Yellow-r. Warbler	7 - 28	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazys, Vigyikans
"	17	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-br. Chat	<u>1 - 21</u>	1	Buffalo	Grabnik fide Cohen
Eastern Towhee	8	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Highcock, Hampson
"	30	1	Porter	Salembier
Fox Sparrow	30	1	Porter	Salembier
Swamp Sparrow	10	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
White-cr. Sparrow	9 - 21	1 - 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	1	Yates	Pawlicki
"	27	5	Carlton	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Lapland Longspur	8; 14	23; 30	Yates	D'Anna et al; Beattie
"	14	16	Porter	Sharon
"	30	6	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	17; 30	4; 5	Somerset	Salembier; Suggs
"	14 - 29	1 - 3	Throughout WNY	9 other records
Snow Bunting	8; 16	200; 600	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	9	300	Newfane	Suggs
"	20 - 30	70 - 600	Bethany	Beattie
"	29	500	Oakfield	Wojewodzki, K Landau
"	30	600	Somerset	Suggs
"	26, 30	800, 1500	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	29	500	Lyndonville	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	75	Hartland	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-w. Blackbird	1	1	Lackawanna	Rew et al
"	2	8	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	8	1 (f)	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	18, 21	6, 5	Tonawanda	Watson
Rusty Blackbird	8	12	Sherkston (Ont)	Seburn, Jacklin et al
"	24	1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
Brown-head. Cowbird	1	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	22	2	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Common Redpoll	1	100	Newfane	D'Anna
"	1, 2	100, 30	Shelby	Morien
"	3, 5, 6	40, 100, 50	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	8	60	Carlton	D'Anna et al
"	10	60	Waterport	Morien
"	14	20	Colden	J&K Landau
"	16	35	Buckhorn I. SP	Morgante, Akios
"	1 - 23	1 - 15	Throughout WNY	13 other records
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	8	1	Carlton	D'Anna et al
Pine Siskin	1, 3, 23	10, 2, 3	Shelby	Morien
"	2	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8	7	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	9	12	Newfane	Carlson
"	20 - 29	5 - 6	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
Evening Grosbeak	2	1	Orchard Park	Morgante, Fuhrmann

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

000

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:

112

Total for the year 2011:

112

#### OTHER SPECIES SEEN IN JANUARY IN BOS REGION:

Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

### Statisticians' Note on Eurasian Collared-Dove

*Mike Morgante*

On January 27, 2011, Brett and Shery Ewald observed a Eurasian Collared-Dove in their yard in Lyndonville, Orleans County for only a few minutes. The dove returned on February 2, 2011 and Brett was able to take two photographs. The photographs and Brett's verification report clearly identify the bird as a Eurasian Collared-Dove and not the similar looking Ringed Turtle Dove or more common Mourning Dove. The dove was larger and stockier than a Mourning Dove and had a long, square tail. The thin, black collar was clearly evident. Beyond these key field marks and numerous other features identified in the verification report and photographs, Ewald noted that there was no 'whistling' sound when the dove took off like is heard from the wings when a Mourning Dove takes flight.

Eurasian Collared-Dove became established in Florida and has rapidly expanded throughout many parts of North America in the last two decades. The expansion to the northeastern U.S. has not been as rapid to other parts of the country and there have been limited sightings in New York. The presence of this individual is most likely connected to several pairs that have taken up residence, including apparent successful breeding in the Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, in recent years.

With acceptance of this verification report, there are now 392 species, 22 recognizable subspecies, and two

named hybrids on the official B.O.S. list. This is the fourth new species addition (Say's Phoebe, Kirtland's Warbler and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck were the others) since the eighth edition of the Date Guide was issued in 2006. The addition of Eurasian Collared-Dove to the B.O.S. list has been anticipated for some time. In 2006, all three panelists (Willie D'Anna, Jim Pawlicki, and Mike Morgante) selected it as one of the next three new species most likely to occur in the B.O.S. Study Area.



Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed by Brett Ewald in Lyndonville on Feb. 2. The Collared-Dove was first observed there on Jan. 27.

# BOS Field Trip to Dunkirk Harbor on February 20, 2011

Jim Pawlicki

Seventeen participants showed up for February 20th Buffalo Ornithological Society field trip to Dunkirk Harbor in Chautauqua Co. to enjoy the fair weather and 38 species of birds.

Upon arrival to the Central Avenue pier, the now "regular" trio of LITTLE GULLS (adult and two 1st-cycles) gave us great looks as they foraged point blank off the pier, and were easily more visible than the few BONAPARTE'S GULLS that put in brief appearances. Hearing the Little Gulls occasionally give their high pitched squeaky "keek" calls as they flew near each other was also a nice treat.

Looking west from the main pier, the two immature drake HARLEQUIN DUCKS swam into view along the west inner breakwall as they constantly dove and then continued to swim west before disappearing out of sight. Scoping a mixed flock of SCAUP and CANVASBACKS just outside the west inner breakwall, Doug Beattie spotted a nice hen LONG-TAILED DUCK that was sleeping amongst the group. Near the outer breakwall an adult GLAUCOUS GULL was observed displaying and quarreling a bit with a few Great Black-backeds and Herrings, while a distant pale 1st-cycle ICELAND GULL and pair of NORTHERN PINTAILS were seen swimming around amongst the COMMON MERGANSERS. An immature WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, 4 AMERICAN WIGEON, 8 GADWALL, 11 RUDDY DUCKS, 32 HOODED MERGANSERS, 12 HORNED GREBES, 159 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, and 19 GREAT BLUE HERONS, all counted by Bill Watson, were the other waterbird highlights from the pier.

Over at the west end near the Dunkirk Conservation Club, Joe Mitchell re-found the two HARLEQUIN DUCKS allowing views for a few participants who missed them early on. While scanning the gulls, an adult BALD EAGLE and 4 HORNED LARKS flew overheard, followed shortly by a juvenile COOPER'S HAWK that zipped by over the docks.

Numerous flocks of ducks and gulls were present in the open ice leads at the east end of the harbor, and scoping from the Main St. beach, a sleeping hen BLACK SCOTER was spotted in amongst a distant flock of Scaup and GOLDENEYE. The 1st-cycle ICELAND GULL also put in another appearance, giving much closer views as it sat on the ice and flew around amongst Ring-billeds. The other highlights here were a near adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL sleeping on the ice, along with at least 7 distant BALD EAGLES of various ages that were widely scattered out on the ice.

By about noon most of the field trip had broken up, although a few continued back to the Central Avenue pier where the lighting on the east side had improved from the morning, and the long-staying EARED GREBE finally put in an appearance amongst a group of Horneds inside the east inner breakwall.

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION

### Proposal Cover Sheet for 2011

Check one:  Organization  Individual  Student

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work/School phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT PROPOSAL:** The research proposal should include title, background and significance of the project, overall goals and specific aims, methods to be employed, materials and equipment required, personnel, schedule for completing the research plan, and a literature bibliography. The proposal should be sufficiently detailed to clearly present the plan. The proposal will be typed. Attach this cover sheet to the proposal on submission.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** A separate itemized project budget should be forwarded with your proposal.

Total amount requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Planned completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT:** I (we) agree to make a full written report to the BOS describing in detail the results of the study or project. I (we) may also be required to present the results before a regular meeting of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS). If for any reason this proposal cannot be carried out, I (we) will return all funds to the BOS.

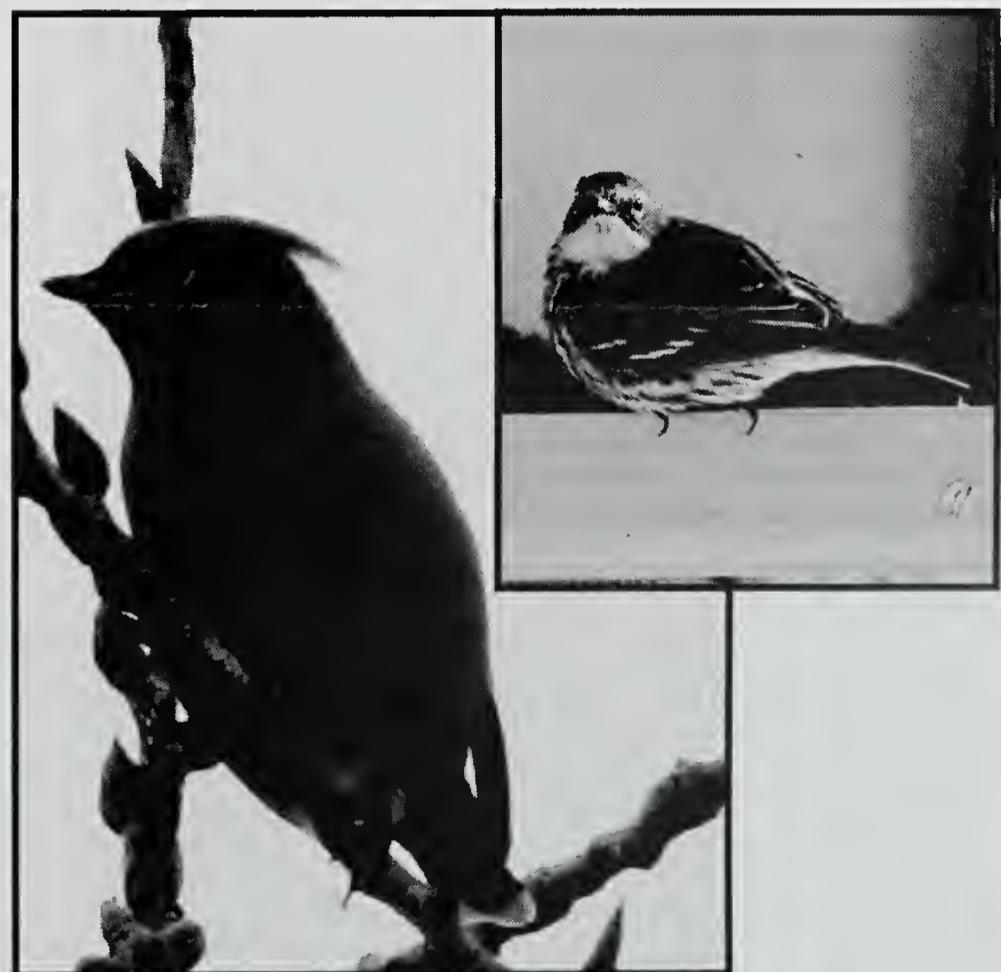
Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Students Only

**FACULTY SPONSOR:** Please attach a reference letter from your faculty sponsor verifying your ability to carry out the proposed project and verifying his or her commitment to oversee your work

Faculty sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form is also available at the BOS website:  
[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)



(Left) Bohemian Waxwing photographed by Willie D'Anna in Newfane on Jan. 30 and (Right) Yellow-rumped Warbler photographed by Mike Zebehazy in Orchard Park on Jan. 24.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## March - May Calendar & Annoucements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Visit between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Apr. 10: April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate. Compiler Holly Sweeney 716-639-0158 or [holran171@verizon.net](mailto:holran171@verizon.net)

**Apr. 13: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Students of the Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology will present their research findings. The students are sponsored by Dr. Sara Morris, Professor of Biology at Canisius College. Catherine Alsfeld will present "Breeding biology of a newly-established population of House Wrens," Brynne Stumpe will present "Does House Wren singing rate change with stage in breeding cycle?", Kyle Horton will present "Flight calls in wood-warblers: Do migrants respond to conspecific calls?", and Dorothy Fatunmbi will present a biological illustration poster on "How is plumage used to determine age and sex of birds?"

**Apr. 17: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** We will meet 7:30AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. If you plan to drive on your own, we will meet the RBA group at 9:30AM in the Braddock Bay Parking Lot. (Take route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway, and then take the exit for East Manitou Road/ Braddock Bay Park). Leaders: BOS David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)) and RBA Kim Sucy (585-503-2534, [ksucy@eznet.net](mailto:ksucy@eznet.net))

**Apr. 27: 7PM. Vaughan Lecture at the Buffalo Science Museum.** Scott Weidensaul will present 'Of a Feather: A (Brief) History of American Birding'.

**May 8: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip for early migrants and warblers .** Leader: Chris Newton ([Cnewton2@roadrunner.com](mailto:Cnewton2@roadrunner.com) 716-225-8055). Meet 7:30 AM at Tifft N.P. parking lot, off of Furhrmann. This is a half-day trip.

**May 11: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mike DeSha will present a program on his travels to Patagonia, Argentina, and Chile. Mike is VP of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute Bird Club. He is newly-elected Corresponding Secretary for the New York State Ornithological Association. Afterward, Dave Gordon will present the results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 111th Annual Christmas Bird Count.

**May 15: Sunday. May Bird Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (716-626-0325 or [rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com)). BOS members should plan to participate in the May Count.

## IN MEMORIAM: Bill Bogacki and Dave Neveu

*Bill Watson*

Near the end of last year the Buffalo Ornithological Society lost a long time member, Bill Bogacki, and a well-known friend, David Neveu. William J. Bogacki became a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society in 1979. He often led the society's field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve where he also worked as a security guard. In later years Bill conducted the Wellness Walks at Tifft N.P. on Thursday mornings. Bill enjoyed Tifft immensely, and on his days off from his work as a security guard he would often be found birding there, taking what he called a "busman's holiday." Starting in 1983 he diligently maintained a list of avian first arrivals on a large poster board at Tifft. This list later became a valuable resource in not only preparing the Tifft Nature Preserve Check List of Birds, but it was also incorporated as a table of "First observations of Woodpecker species each year at Tifft Nature Preserve from 1983 to 2008." in the article "Woodpeckers at Tifft Nature Preserve (and Beyond): A Brief Review of the Habitats and Conservation of the Woodpeckers in Eastern North America" by David Spiering, which appeared in Volume 38 of the Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. When David Freeland stepped down as the B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count Compiler in 1980, Dr. Kenneth Balmas replaced him for the December 21, 1980, count, and then by Bill Bogacki for the fifty-third B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count in 1981. He compiled that count and remained the compiler for 29 years! In the early years in that capacity, Bill would conscientiously publish a four page summary of the B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count in the Prothonotary, including a report on the previous highs and lows.

Although he was not a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, David Neveu made an immense contribution to birding in and around Chautauqua County. The 1965-2008 Noteworthy Record Data base shows that between 1983 and 2008, 957 of the Noteworthy Records he submitted to the society were published in the *Prothonotary*. Dave kept meticulous records (speaking into a tape recorder) of the location and bird species he observed. He would later carefully transcribe this information, often putting it onto the Geneseebirds Listserv, so that other birders could be aware of what birds had been recently seen in Chautauqua County. He was very amiable and personable and would often give a cheerful "hello" and share his observations with other birders. If he saw that you were confused on the directions to one of his favorite spots such as Saint Columbans or the Sheldon Trail, he would take the time to mark his favorite birding hot spots in Chautauqua County on your map.

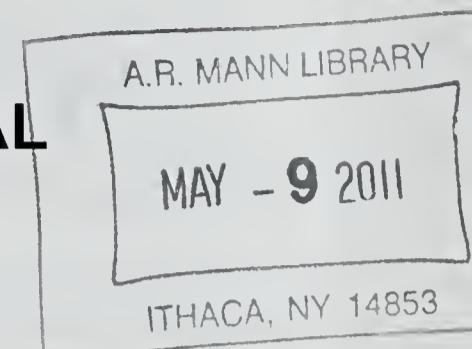
The Buffalo Ornithological Society will greatly miss both of these gentlemen that made an immense contribution to the society and birding in Western New York.

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# e Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 3 March 2011



### THE MONTH: February

Elizabeth Wells

February's weather patterns were consistent with those of December and January, with frigid temperatures and daily snowfall. Measurable snow fell on 22 days and it remained on the ground for 27 days of the month. Little of it was from lake effect snow. Average temperature was 1.3 degrees below normal, at 24.6 °F. Snowfall totaled 34.1 inches, the most in the last 16 years, and the eighth snowiest year in 127 recorded. Western New York was spared the brunt of the storm that hit most of the country on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, although we still had 5-8 inches on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19-21<sup>st</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 inches fell while the largest snowfall occurred on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with 7-9 inches.

Things warmed up a bit, melting the entire snow pack, on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. A high temperature of 54 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and 50 mph winds on the 18<sup>th</sup>, caused problems along some area creeks. It warmed up again on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with 0.95 inches of rain falling on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Total precipitation for the month was 3.13 inches, 0.71 above normal. Possible sunshine was 39 percent, one percent above normal, with 9 days mostly sunny.

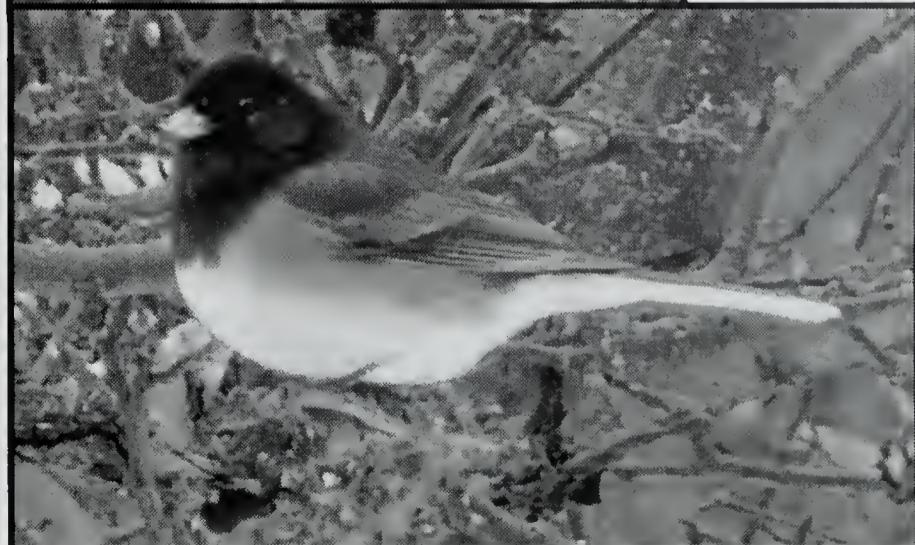
S. McLaughlin sums up the three month winter season (December, 2010 - February, 2011) season: "Western New York's meteorological winter was relentless. Its consistency was almost unprecedented, as a blocking pattern, which set up in the Arctic, remained locked in place..." making it the coldest winter in 8 years and the 4<sup>th</sup> coldest in 30. This winter's numbers versus (normal): temperature 24.0 (26.7) °F., precipitation 7.74 (9.38), snowfall 95.9 (69.4), days at or below 32 °F. 68 (43) – a new record (!), days with measurable snow 56 (44), with snow cover 86 (57).

19	<b>The Month</b> <i>Elizabeth Wells</i>	On February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , an adult Slaty-backed Gull was found by Jim Pawlicki at the Lewiston Power Reservoir in
20	<b>Beaver I. SP Restoration</b> <i>Jerry Lazarczyk &amp; Rob Daly</i>	Niagara County. Pawlicki describes it as "A large 'white-headed'
21	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i>	
24	<b>In Memory-William Murray</b> <i>Gerry Rising</i>	
24	<b>Calendar</b>	

gull by similarity in shape and structure to nearby Herring Gulls. Aged as an adult based on the all yellow bill with red gonys spot, black primaries with large white-tips, and clean white tail." Underparts were white, head and nape white with slight streaking; mantle and upperwing colors were similar to the nearby Great Black-backed Gulls, "...the legs and feet were a rich pink." Jim also noted "...a short primary projection past the tertials and tail that gave the bird a stockier, robust, pot-bellied shape," also noticed in-flight due to the shorter, broader wings. He continues, "This pattern of white in the primaries combined with the broad white tips to the tertials, secondaries, and inner primaries against the dark blackish-gray mantle gave the bird a



(Top) Hoary Redpoll photographed by Willie D'Anna at his home feeder in Wilson, NY on February 5<sup>th</sup>.



(Bottom) Oregon Junco photographed by LeAnn Childs at her home feeder in Ellery, NY on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson

**Society Officers:**

**President:** Thomas O'Donnell

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William Watson

The estimated world population is about a quarter million individuals. During winter dispersal small numbers move eastward to the Aleutian Islands, Mainland Alaska, and even further south to Canada and United States.

LeAnn Childs was able to take some nice photographs of a Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco at her

distinctive and highly contrasting pattern of continuous white along the trailing edges of the wings from the body to the wing tips."

This is the fourth local sighting of the Slaty-backed Gull in the BOS study area, and the first in February. There were numerous reports of one individual between November 24<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1992, primarily on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. There were also reports in December 2006 (D'Anna), and 2008 (D'Anna, Whittle, et al), also in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Slaty-backed Gulls breed in the Russian Far East along most of the mainland coast, from the northern Koryak Highlands south to the China border and Japan.

feeder in Ellery, on February 6<sup>th</sup> (above). The blackish hood indicates this is a male; the female's hood is duller. Take note of the rufous/buffy brown back and sides. The most recent February sightings of "Oregon" Juncos were in 2005 in Wilson on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> by D'Anna and DiTommaso. Although we may not see many of them, when they are here they often stay for extended periods of time, giving us ample viewing opportunities. The Axtells of Bertie, Ontario had a female stay for almost three months, in both 1967 and 1969. For two consecutive years, Bob Andrle recorded a female for months. One stayed for over two months in 2001, and one for over three months in 2002, both in Eden Valley.

Willie D'Anna reported a Hoary Redpoll at his feeders, again, this month, on February 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted, "There was a slight buff wash on the breast, possibly indicating an immature." The Eared Grebe, reported by Pawlicki in January, remained at Dunkirk Harbor. Also, the previously reported Eurasian Collared-Dove was seen again at the Ewald's yard in Lyndonville, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

McLaughlin, S. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

## Beaver Island State Park Restoration

Jerry Lazarczyk & Robert Daly

The purpose of the Beaver Island Habitat Improvement Project (HIP) is to restore historical hemi-marsh, to an 8.4 acre site within the park, which was removed several decades ago during cut and fill operations. Hemi-marsh is a combination of emergent marsh and shallow open water habitat interspersed in equal parts. Primary target species are waterfowl, terns, wading birds, reptiles, amphibians, and native wetland plants. Implementation of the HIP will involve removal of the fill material, grading to ensure connectivity with adjacent wetlands and open water, placement of marsh topsoil as necessary, and planting of native plants throughout the 8.4 acre area.

At this time J.L. reports the construction dikes have been removed and an Osprey nest platform has been installed complete with a partial nest to help entice a pair to the site. The planting of various aquatic plants and trees and bushes remains. The plant list is attached as a separate pdf (HIP.pdf) for electronic subscribers. This is part of the Greenway established along the Niagara River paid for by the relicensing of the Power Authority at Niagara Falls.



Eared Grebe photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	15	2	Lewiston	Morgante
"	18	7	Pt. Breeze	Lawrence
"	23	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	24	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Tundra Swan	6	1	Chaut. L. Outlet	Berry
"	9	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Gula
"	16, 23	149, 270	Beaver Island SP	Watson
"	21	83	Tonawanda	Salembier
Gadwall	5; 12	4; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry; Salembier
"	23	12	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	24; 28	1; 12	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
American Wigeon	20	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson (BOS)
"	24	2	Tonawanda	Hess
American Black Duck	5; 20	9; 25	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry; Mitchell
"	13	6	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	18	28	Newstead	Watson
"	23	72	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Northern Pintail	16	6	Grand I.	Hess
"	20	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	20	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson (BOS)
"	26	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
Canvasback	19	1000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Redhead	5	67	Erie Basin Marina	Watson
"	6; 22	100; 30	Dunkirk Harbor	Carlson; Watson (BOS)
"	13,20;24	51, 56; 19	Tonawanda	Watson; Hess
"	15	305	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	27	5	Chaut. L. Outlet	Berry
"	28	2	Tonawanda	Watson
Greater Scaup	5	6070	Buffalo	Watson
"	23	580	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Scaup	5	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry
"	24; 28	11; 40	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
"	26	390	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
King Eider	21	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Giancarlo et al
Harlequin Duck	4; 5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Berry
"	12-20	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Salembier et al
White-winged Scoter	5	3	Buffalo	Watson
"	15	26	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	15	199	Pt. Breeze	Watson
"	20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mitchell
"	23	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
* Black Scoter	12; 20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier; Watson(BOS)
"	13	4	Buffalo	Yerkovich
Bufflehead	23	2850	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Common Goldeneye	21	2000	Riverside Pk, Blfo.	Kauffman
"	23	2980	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	6; 20	40; 32	Dunkirk Harbor	Carlson; Watson
"	13	23	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	16	4	Grand I.	Hess
Common Merganser	20	305	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS)
"	23	650	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-br. Merganser	5	500	Buffalo	Watson
"	15	120	Olcott	Watson
"	23	1700	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	6; 26	20; 30	Dunkirk Harbor	Carlson; Musher
Red-throated Loon	5; 6	23; 20	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna; Yoerg et al
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	15; 27	7; 1	Olcott	Pawlicki, Watson; D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	12	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	27	1	Wilson Harbor	D'Anna
Horned Grebe	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	4, 20	9, 12	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
Red-necked Grebe	4 - 9	2-3	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	4, 20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki et al
"	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
Great Blue Heron	16	29	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	23	47	Motor I.	Watson
"	26	95	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
* Turkey Vulture	18F	5	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	20	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	28	1	Cheektowaga	Salembier
Bald Eagle	17	3	Iroq. NWR & Ton. WMA	Morien
"	20	4	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	20	7	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson (BOS)
"	5 - 28	1 - 2	BOS region	9 other records
Red-shouldered Hawk	5, 7, 8	2	Darien	Dart, Beattie
"	8	2	Bennington	Beattie, Mason
"	18	1	RT Peterson Institute	Berry
"	18	1	East Aurora	Newton
Rough-legged Hawk	4, 27	1 dk, 1 dk	Stockton	Mosher
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	13	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	3	Yates	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	1	Carlton	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18	1	Somerset	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	5, 16	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki et al
"	27	2	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki, Newton et al
American Coot	20	86	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki (BOS)
* Killdeer	18F	1	Holland	Newton
"	27	2	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki et al
Purple Sandpiper	23	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	15	5	Lewiston	Morgante
Little Gull	12; 20	3; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Pawlicki (BOS)
Iceland Gull	5	1 imm	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Pt. Breeze	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19; 20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Berry; Watson
"	22	4	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	27	3	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki, Newton et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15	1 ad	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	20	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson (BOS)
"	27	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
* <u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	22	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki et al
Glaucous Gull	5	1 imm	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18	4	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	22, 27	8, 5	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki, Pawlicki et al
<u>Euras. Collared-Dove</u>	2	1	Lyndonville	B & S Ewald
* Long-eared Owl	13	1	Stevensville CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-eared Owl	11	11	Hartland	Rosenburg et al
"	15; 17	2; 1	Olcott	Pawlicki, Watson; Sharon
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	15	1	Hartland	Rosenburg, Walters
Northern Shrike	6	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	13, 20	1, 1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	15	1	Somerset	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1	Tiffet NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	1	Beamsville (Ont)	Smith
* Common Raven	15	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Horned Lark	6	80	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	32	Alexander	Beattie, Mason
"	13	14	Iroquois NWR	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	75	Bethany	Beattie
Carolina Wren	1 - 13	2	Fredonia	Goetz
"	1 - 28	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	5 - 26	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	12, 18	1, 1	Fredonia	Mosher
Eastern Bluebird	6	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	15	6	Newfane	Watson, Pawlicki
American Robin	4	25	Grand I.	Hess
"	13	60	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	15; 20	57; 25	Tifft NP	Watson; Yoerg et al
"	27	115	Lewiston	D'Anna
Gray Catbird	16	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	1	Stevensville (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
"	17	1	Buffalo	Gordon
"	20	1 - 2	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-r. Warbler	3	1	Ransomville	Muller
"	5, 6	1	Orchard Park(f)	Vigyikan
"	27	2	Bethany	Beattie
* Field Sparrow	27	1	Ridgeway (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
White-cr. Sparrow	3, 5, 11	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	7, 23	2, 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	15	6	Carlton	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Dark-eyed Junco				
* <i>J. h. oreganus</i>	7 - 26	1	Ellery	Childs
Lapland Longspur	6	21	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	1	Alexander	Beattie, Mason
Snow Bunting	6	20	Stevensville (Ont)	Jacklin, BonEnfant
"	6	1060	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	80	Cambria	Watson
"	15	60	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	175	Bethany	Beattie
Red-w. Blackbird	10	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	14, 15	22, 19	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	26	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	9	1	Jamestown	Norton
* Common Grackle	18F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	28	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Brown-head. Cowbird	15	32	Tonawanda	Watson
* Purple Finch	28	4	Pomfret (f)	Moshers
* White-wing. Crossbill	28	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Common Redpoll	1 - 28	5 - 60	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	5	5	Shelby	Morien
"	17 - 28	26 - 70	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
"	18	10	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	27	35	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Pine Siskin	13; 15	1; 2	Youngstown (f)	Landon; Yonker
"	20	6	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

112

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:

011

Total for the year 2011:

123

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## April - June Calendar & Annoucements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Visit between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Apr. 17: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** We will meet 7:30AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. If you plan to drive on your own, we will meet the RBA group at 9:30AM in the Braddock Bay Parking Lot. (Take route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway, and then take the exit for East Manitou Road/ Braddock Bay Park). Leaders: BOS David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)) and RBA Kim Sucy (585-503-2534, [ksucy@eznet.net](mailto:ksucy@eznet.net))

**Apr. 27: 7PM. Vaughan Lecture at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Scott Weidensaul will present 'Of a Feather: A (Brief) History of American Birding'.

**May 8: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip for early migrants and warblers .** Leader: Chris Newton ([Cnewton2@roadrunner.com](mailto:Cnewton2@roadrunner.com) 716-225-8055). Meet 7:30 AM at Tifft N.P. parking lot, off of Furhrmann. This is a half-day trip.

**May 11:BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mike DeSha will present a program on his travels to Patagonia, Argentina, and Chile. Mike is VP of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute Bird Club. He is Corresponding Secretary for the New York State Ornithological Association. Afterward, Dave Gordon will present the results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 111th Annual Christmas Bird Count.

**May 15: Sunday. May Bird Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (716-626-0325 or [rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com)). BOS members should plan to participate in the May Count.

**June 8: BOS Picnic. Wednesday. Tifft Nature Preserve.** The last meeting of the year and Annual June Picnic to be followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

## In Memory of William Murray

*Gerry Rising*

Former BOS member William Murray died in 2010 after a lingering illness. I recall Bill especially for showing me his backyard Purple Martin nest box that the martins shared with a family of Great Crested Flycatchers.

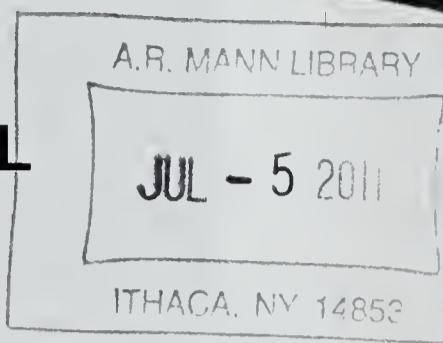
Bill's widow has a collection of owl carvings, ceramics and paintings as well as several shelves of bird books that she seeks to sell as a group or individually (below). Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Murray at 716-741-2420 after 6:00 p.m.



# The Prothonotary

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2011

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 77, No. 4 April 2011

### THE MONTH: March

Tim Baird

This writer greeted March with much enthusiasm. The anticipation of an end to snow shoveling, the return of mild temperatures, and the spring transition in the bird world generated some excitement. The spring transition in the bird world panned out, but I can say the March weather hardly compensated for a long winter.

The total snowfall of 13.3 inches was 0.9 inches above the average for March highlighted by 6-7 inches of wet snow on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was the wettest March in 20 years. The average temperature was 31.9° F which was 2.4° F below the March average. One bright spot, the available sunshine topped out at 54%, 8 points above average. Lake Erie retained about 600 square miles of ice cover by month's end. McLaughlin's climate report from the National Weather Service for March 2011 in the Buffalo region states the following: "Summing up...A changeable, but still rather wintry month."

Keeping with the wintry theme for March, many observers reported Common Redpolls at feeders. There were reports of the less common Hoary Redpoll visiting along with the flocks of Common Redpolls. Hoary Redpolls were observed and verified in Orchard Park, Wilson, and Youngstown by Morgante, D'Anna, and Landon, respectively. Potter and D'Anna reported 1100 Snow Buntings massing in Hartland on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Mills reported a single White-winged Crossbill in Fonthill Ontario during the period of the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. As with the Snow Buntings mentioned above, Hartland on March 11<sup>th</sup>, was the place for large concentrations of birds, in this case for waterfowl including 2050 Northern Pintail reported by D'Anna and Potter.

March is a typical month for waterfowl movement. Tundra Swans had a good showing early to mid-month. Three reports were submitted for Ross's Goose. Like its close cousin the Snow Goose, the diminutive Ross's

Goose has been increasing in population of late. New York State's first accepted occurrence of Ross's Goose was in 1983 in

Dutchess County (Tracy, 1983). The B.O.S. region's first record of this goose was in 1988 reported by Seamans from the Town of Oakfield. The Ross's Goose seems to be transitioning from extremely rare to just rare. Photos of a Ross's Goose were submitted by Goodrich at Fort Erie, Ontario and Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor. Both sets of photos showed the small size of the goose compared directly to some Canada Geese in the same view. The lack of the dark "grin patch" characteristic on the bill of the Snow Goose was also documented in the photos. Pawlicki in his verification report noted, "...the base of the bill was relatively straight with no even or pronounced curvature..." another characteristic separating Ross's Goose from the Snow Goose.

A report was received of a McKay's Bunting in the Fredonia area on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This rare complement to the Snow Bunting has a range confined to extreme



Hoary Redpoll photographed by Willie D'Anna in Wilson, NY on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

25 The Month

Tim Baird

27 Noteworthy Records

Bruce Chilton & Statisticians

32 Calendar

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson

**Society Officers:**

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Nevertheless, the Statisticians are grateful that the observer made the effort to submit this observation and include a verification report. It would be unfortunate if this sighting went completely unreported and not scrutinized by others.

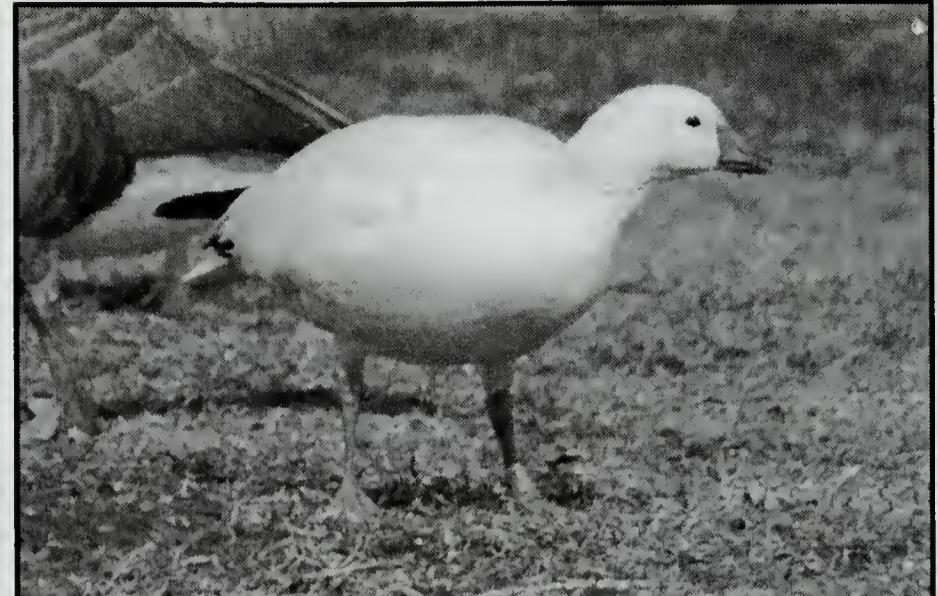
Dunkirk Harbor continues to provide a haven for waterfowl in the warmer water around the nearby electrical generating plant. With Lake Erie ice-covered, the concentration of waterfowl and gulls at the harbor is noteworthy. Dunkirk Harbor has become a location where uncommon and rare species are often encountered by birders. A scan of the Noteworthy Records for this month highlights rarer species observed at the harbor including Ross's Goose, Harlequin Duck, Eared Grebe, Black-headed Gull and Little Gull among others.

A single Slaty-backed Gull was photographed and verified by D'Anna in Porter on the 16<sup>th</sup> and another by Pawlicki in Wilson in the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both reports gave detailed descriptions of this rare gull in their verification reports. It is apparent from these reports how important very careful observation of several characteristics is to make a determination of rare species. In the case of the Slaty-backed Gull, details of the wings are particularly important and were well described by both reports and shown in the photographs.

The Hawk Watches at Hamburg and Ripley continue to document significant movements of birds. Notable are the numbers of Turkey Vultures, Red-

western Alaska and associated islands in the Bering Sea and is rarely recorded elsewhere. The report described a single observation of one bird, without accompanying photographs. The verification report submitted was intriguing with some characteristics notable for McKay's Bunting. Although reported by an experienced observer, it is difficult for the Statisticians to accept what would be an extremely unusual and unexpected species not only for western New York but anywhere in the continental United States.

It would be unfortunate if this sighting went completely unreported and not scrutinized by others.



Ross's Goose photographed by Jim Pawlick at Dunkirk Harbor on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

shouldered Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks. Bald Eagles continue their regularity. Nesting Bald Eagles were reported at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Navy Island, and the Allegheny Reservoir. Newton's notes included a Golden Eagle at Tiff Nature Preserve on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In his verification, Newton noted pale/light feathers on the secondaries and inner primaries of the wing, but a lack of light feathering on the body that is characteristic of an immature Bald Eagle. Berry observed and verified an early Osprey at the Chautauqua Lake outlet on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ospreys are showing up earlier than in the past since they have become a regularly nesting species in western New York. Similarly, the reports of Sandhill Cranes are showing an earlier presence of this species as it has expanded its nesting range to include New York State.

Spring migration of passerines did get off to a start this month. Reports for Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, Fox Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks were restricted to the second half of March. The only warbler was a Yellow-rumped Warbler found in Alexander by Dart on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Mosher reported an estimated 300 American Pipits in Stockton on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Of interest, is a report from the Farnams, without further details, of two Brewer's Blackbirds at Wainfleet Ontario on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

March is a month of transition. Not just for birds, but birders as well. The writer appreciates some edit suggestions from Mike Morgante, and information from the B.O.S. records provided by David Suggs.

Tracy, E.D. 1983. "Ross' Goose added to New York State List." *Kingbird* 33: 153-154.

Note: Except for the most recent three years, articles from *The Kingbird* are archived on line in a searchable format. This service is provided without cost by the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). The archived copies can be accessed from the NYSOA web site at [www.nybirds.org/KBsearch.htm](http://www.nybirds.org/KBsearch.htm).

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* = First record for the year.
- F - First record for the migration.
- L - Last record for the migration.
- (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.
- (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gr. White-fr. Goose	26	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	29; 30	7	Barre	Mitchell, Pawlicki; Salembier
* Snow Goose	3F	24	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Morien et al
"	7	30	Alexander	Fox
"	11	125	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	38	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	13	283	Alabama	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	14	61	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	16; 57	Porter	Sharon; D'Anna
"	25	46	Clymer	Vanstrom
* Ross's Goose	2	1	Stevensville (Ont)	R&L Goodridge
"	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki et al
* Cackling Goose	3E	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; D'Anna et al
"	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	11; 27	6; 9	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter; Yoerg
"	12, 20	37, 18	Hartland	D'Anna
"	22	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Mute Swan	7	2	Grand I.	Sharon
"	8; 26	2; 2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon; Salembier
Tundra Swan	1F	7	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3	306	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	4	588	Hamburg Hawkwatch	J Landau
"	12	1000	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	15	200	Tifft NP	Newton
"	19	162	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
Wood Duck	1F	1	Wilson	Teal
"	3	1	Elma	Morgante
"	27, 29	62, 85	Batavia	Fox
Gadwall	10F	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	12	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
* Eurasian Wigeon	25	1	Alexander	Dart
"	29; 30	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Mitchell; Salembier
American Wigeon	1F	6	Wilson	Teal
"	20	144	Oakfield	Beattie, Dart
"	20; 30	220; 655	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien; Watson
* Blue-winged Teal	12F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	14	2	Alexander	Fox
* Northern Shoveler	4F	3	Wilson	Teal
"	5	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	19; 22	48; 89	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
Northern Pintail	1F	1	Wilson	Teal
"	3	100	Dunkirk Harbor	Morien, Pawlicki
"	11	<u>2050</u>	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	85	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	14	96	Alexander	Fox
"	30	118	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Green-winged Teal	4F	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	12	6	Alexander	Dart
"	30	330	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Canvasback	12F	1	Clymer	Beebe
"	13; 19	4; 17	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Redhead	9F; 19	21; 144	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	12	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	12	1	Clymer	Beebe
"	12	1	Hartland	D'Anna
"	12	35	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	12	207	Niagara River	Watson
"	20; 27	400; 300	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Daniels; Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	9F; 27	30; 646	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	10	7	Newstead	Watson
"	10	29	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	18, 20	80, 250	Iroquois NWR area	Morien
"	19	346	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Dart; Watson
"	24	290	Dunkirk	Goetz
Greater Scaup	12F	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	17; 27	3400; 2000	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Watson; Morgante
"	19	13	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lesser Scaup	8; 12	33; 32	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
"	9F; 27	4; 206	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox
"	31	33	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
King Eider	17-20	2 – 3	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Harlequin Duck	1-12	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Goetz et al
Surf Scoter	1; 27	2; 1	Pt. Breeze	D. Tetlow; Salembier
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
White-winged Scoter	3	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	11	300	Youngstown	Landon
"	20	2	Buffalo Harbor	Morien
Black Scoter	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	11	1	Youngstown	Landon
"	15	2	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	27; 30F	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
Long-tailed Duck	13F; 19	2; 5	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Pawlicki, Watson
"	13F	11	Celeron	Seleen
"	18	1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
Bufflehead	10F	1	Newstead	Watson
"	14; 19	11; 76	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Fox
"	18	55	Iroquois NWR area	Morien
Common Goldeneye	12F	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	14	2	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Dart
Hooded Merganser	10F	6	Newstead	Watson
"	11	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	14; 27	30; 109	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Dart; Fox
Common Merganser	14; 19	129; 65	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Dart; Watson
"	26	240	Niagara Falls	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	9F; 19	2; 26	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	12	22	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	26	90	Niagara Falls	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	14F; 27	1; 94	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Fox
"	16	8	Youngstown	Pawlicki
"	19	4	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
"	20	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
Red-throated Loon	22	8	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Newton
"	26F, 31	1, 1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	27	1	Pt. Breeze	Salembier
Common Loon	17F	1	Golden Hill SP	Sharon
"	22	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy
Pied-billed Grebe	15F	1	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
"	18	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Horned Grebe	1	1	Jamestown	Watson
"	3	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	6F	4	Buckhorn I. SP	Beals
"	14; 19	5; 55	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Pawlicki
"	22	73	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Newton
Red-necked Grebe	13	3	Shadigee	Fox
"	20	4	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	1; 3, 14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Pawlicki et al
D.-crested Cormorant	1	90	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	26F	26	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	27	2	Chautauqua Lake	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Great Blue Heron	3	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Morien, Pawlicki
"	3, 21	125, 114	Motor I.	Watson
"	6	11	Iroquois NWR area	Morien
* Great Egret	20E	1	Motor I.	Gordon, Watson
"	21, 30	3, 4	Motor I.	Watson
* Black-cr. Night-Heron	20; 26	4; 14	Motor I.	Watson, Gordon
"	26	14	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Turkey Vulture	1	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	15	433	Tifft NP	Newton
"	17, 26	1316, 1272	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
"	28; 29	1365; 852	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Zebehazy
"	27	421	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
* Osprey	22E	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	25	1	Alexander	Dart
"	25	1	Clymer	Vanstrom
Bald Eagle	10; 24	2 ad + n; 10	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Pawlicki et al
"	13, 26	2 ad + 2n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	26	8 imm, 1 ad, n	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	20 - 27	2 - 4	Throughout WNY	8 other records
Red-shouldered Hawk	8F	3	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	12	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	15	15	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau, Watson
"	17	12	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	17, 18	206, 74	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
"	20	7	Buffalo Harbor	Morien
Red-tailed Hawk	14; 15	61; 93	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Zebehazy et al
"	17, 18	159, 58	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
Rough-legged Hawk	8	4	South Dayton	Baird
"	8; 26	2; 4	Conewango Swp. WMA	Baird; Baird (CCBC)
"	15	4	Tifft NP	Newton
"	17	17	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell
"	17	2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	20	4	Dayton	Mitchell
* Golden Eagle	15F	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Merlin	19F	1	Beaver I. SP	Humann
"	21	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	22	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Newton
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	N. Grand I. bridge	Landon
"	5F	1 ad	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	3	Tifft NP	Newton
"	15	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki et al
"	16	1	Bflo. Central Terminal	Salembier
American Coot	12	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	13	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Sandhill Crane	13F	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	15, 30	1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	17	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	17	1	Akron	Diamond
"	20	1	Hartland	D'Anna
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	26	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pierrynowski
Killdeer	3	1	Knox Farm SP	Holmes
"	4	2	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
* Greater Yellowlegs	19F, 20	1, 1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	29	1	Barre	Mitchell, Pawlicki
* Wilson's Snipe	21F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	23	8	Stockton	Mosher
"	23	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	25	30	Pomfret	Mosher
* American Woodcock	6F	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	12	2 - 3	Pomfret	Moshers
Bonaparte's Gull	20	6	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
* Black-headed Gull	1; 2, 4	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki et al; Goetz
Little Gull	1 - 7	1 - 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Goetz et al
"	16	48	Lewiston	Pawlicki
Ring-billed Gull	27	1600	Bethany	Beattie, Dart
Iceland Gull	3	1	Grand I.	Sharon
"	3; 4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Morien et al; Newton
"	12	2	Goat I.	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16; 20	5; 5	Porter	D'Anna; Pawlicki et al
"	20	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4; 7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Newton; Berry
"	12	2 ad	Goat I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15, 16	2, 1	Porter	D'Anna
"	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	21	1 ad	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	1 imm+1 ad	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	16	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter et al
"	22	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Newton
Glaucous Gull	3; 4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Morien; Newton
"	7	2	Grand I.	Sharon
"	16	3	Porter	D'Anna
"	19	1	Beaver I. SP	Salembier
"	20	6	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Short-eared Owl	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	13	1	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Yoerg
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	22	1 – 2	N. Collins	Feltz, Francisco
"	22, 23	1, 1	Shelby	Morien
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	3 - 22	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	17	1	Wilson	Morien
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	29	1	Alfred	Brooks
* Eastern Phoebe	20F	1	Randolph	Reed
"	27	1	Poland	Berry
"	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	27	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
Northern Shrike	6; 13	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier; Pawlicki
"	7	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	8	1	Batavia	Beattie, Dart
"	8	2	Alexander	Lazarczyk et al
"	24	2	Barre	Morien
"	29	1	Batavia	Beattie, Morien
Common Raven	10	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	18	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	22	3	Glenwood	Kowalik
"	26	1	Allegany SP	Baird (CCBC)
"	27	1	Beaver Meadow A.C.	Gordon
"	30	1	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Pawlicki
Horned Lark	7	6	Bethany	Beattie
"	13	8	Lyndonville	Morien
"	19	25	Oakfield	Watson
"	22	6	Shelby	Morien
* <i>E. a. alpestris</i>	23	50	Pomfret	Moshers
* Tree Swallow	18F	2	Iroquois NWR area	Morien
"	19	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8	1	Alexander	Dart
"	18; 31	1; 2	Beaver I. SP	Hess; Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	10	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15, 29	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
American Robin	8	238	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Gray Catbird	12	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Newton
Northern Mockingbird	8	1	South Buffalo	Morgante
"	30	1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
* American Pipit	8F	3	Batavia	Beattie, Dart
"	8F	1	Alexander	Lazarczyk et al
"	15	2	Shelby	Morien
"	23	300	Stockton	Mosher
"	24, 25	20, 30	Pomfret	Goetz
Yellow-r. Warbler	16	1	Alexander	Dart
Eastern Towhee	18F, 20	1	Alden	Young
"	22	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Fox Sparrow	7F	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	22	4	R T Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	23	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	23	3	Colden	Newton
"	27	1	Alfred	Brooks
Swamp Sparrow	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Lapland Longspur	3	2	Alabama	Mitchell
"	19	20	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	17	Wainfleet (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	24	30	Shelby	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Snow Bunting	3	80	Alabama	Mitchell
"	4, 7	1, 150	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	40	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	11	1100	Hartland	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	1	Oakfield	Pawlicki, Watson
* Eastern Meadowlark	12F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Vigyikan
"	12F	1	Randolph	Reed
"	24	10	Pomfret	Goetz
Rusty Blackbird	6F	2	Portland	Hardenburg
"	8	20	Conewango Swp. WMA	Baird (CCBC)
"	24	50	Barre	Morien
"	27	19	Poland	Berry
"	27	12	Cherry Creek	Goetz
"	29	35	Alabama	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Common Grackle	1	2	Fredonia	Goetz
Purple Finch	7	1	Clymer	Beebe
"	9	1	Fredonia	Goetz
White-w. Crossbill	27 - 29	1	Fonthill (Ont)	D&G Mills
Common Redpoll	5	50	Youngstown (f)	Landon
"	19	70	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	19	70	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	1 - 31	1 - 63	Throughout WNY	13 other records
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	11	1 fem	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Colden (f)	Newton
"	14, 16, 20	1, 1, 1	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
"	17	2 ad m	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	26, 31	1, 1	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
Pine Siskin	4	25	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	5 - 31	1 - 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	2	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	8	3	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	26	4	Newfane (f)	D'Anna (BOS)
"	27	2	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	3	R T Peterson Inst.	Berry

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

123

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:

022

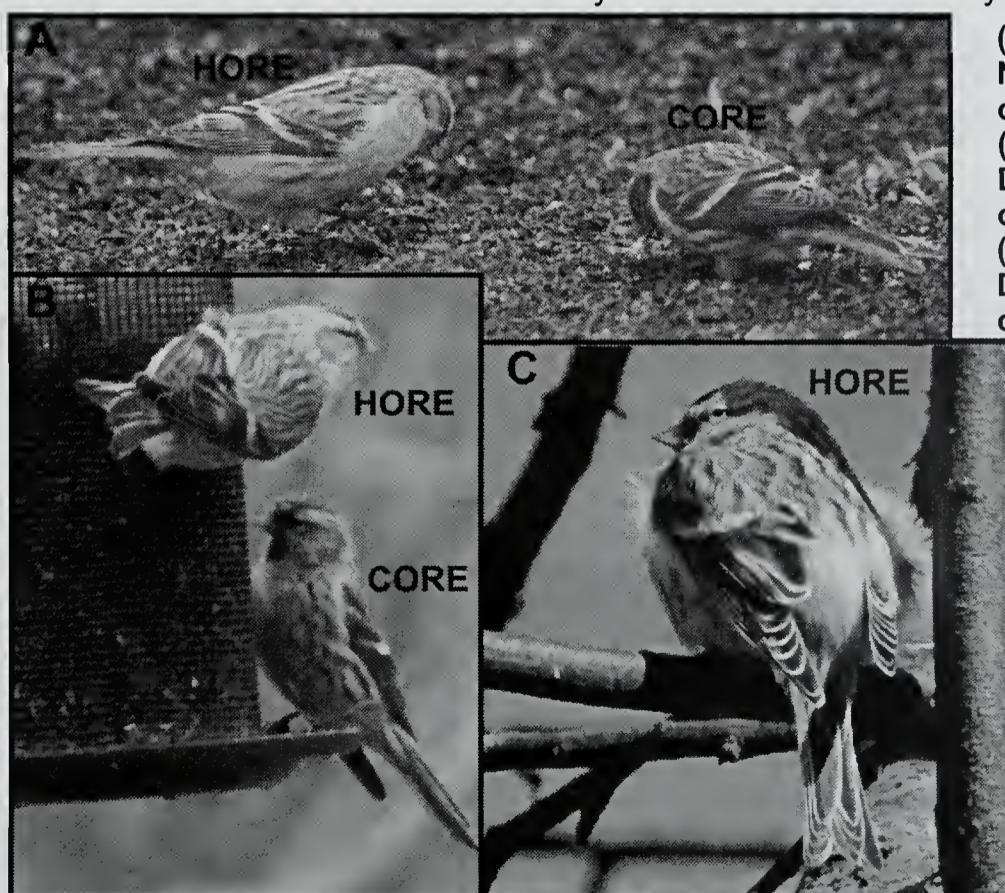
Total for the year 2011:

145

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

#### Hoary and Common Redpoll ID

- Scapulars should be paler with frosty whitish edges on Hoary
- Flank streaking should be sparse and narrow on Hoary
- Undertail coverts should be white or with only narrow streaks on Hoary (female Hoary often have narrow shaft streaks not as broad as on Commons, and male Common can have no streaks)
- Rump should be mostly white on Hoary, whiter on males (but male Commons can also have a noticeably pale rump)
- The bill should look short and small, with fluffy nasal bristles covering the base of the upper mandible and making the forehead bulge a bit (but Commons also have tiny bills, you have to study some Commons at close range before you will feel confident using this feature)
- The pale edges on the wing coverts and secondaries should be broader and whiter on Hoary (but this is variable in both species and, as with all of these clues, it's important to compare birds of the same sex) ([www.sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-identification/](http://www.sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-identification/))



(A) Photograph by Newton in Colden, NY on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

(B) Photograph by D'Anna in Wilson, NY on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

(C) Photograph by D'Anna in Wilson, NY on March 17<sup>th</sup>.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## May - August Calendar & Annoucements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Visit between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**May 8: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip for early migrants and warblers**. Leader: Chris Newton ([Cnewton2@roadrunner.com](mailto:Cnewton2@roadrunner.com) 716-225-8055). Meet 7:30 AM at Tifft N.P. parking lot, off of Furhrmann. This is a half-day trip.

**May 11: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mike DeSha will present a program on his travels to Patagonia, Argentina, and Chile. Mike is VP of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute Bird Club. He is Corresponding Secretary for the New York State Ornithological Association. Afterward, Dave Gordon will present the results of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 111th Annual Christmas Bird Count.

**May 15: Sunday. May Bird Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (716-626-0325 or [rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com)). BOS members should plan to participate in the May Count.

**June 8: BOS Picnic. Wednesday. Tifft Nature Preserve.** The last meeting of the year and Annual June Picnic to be followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

**June 9-12: Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival** in Jamestown, NY. Speakers include Michael L. Smith, the Mad Bluebird Photographer; Dr. John Rappole on "The Lives Of Song Birds"; and Jeff Gordon, the President of the American Birging Association. Field Trips and Free Friday activities for children and novice birders. Complete information at <http://birdfest.rtpi.org> or 716- 665-2473.

**July 24: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (716-649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Aug. 21: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.** Coordinator Lynne Landon (716-745-9129 or [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu)). All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Aug. 28: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (716-649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock

Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

# The Prothonotary

Year  
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2011

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 5 May 2011



### THE MONTH: April

Bill Watson

**The Weather:** The month's mean average temperature was 45.7 °F, 0.4 degrees above normal. As usual, April's temperatures fluctuated with a cold start and a little snow. The second week warmed up bringing our first seventy degree day of the year, while the third week brought back a little taste of winter and a little more snow. Week four warmed up again and we had our first eighties of the year. Ice cleared from the eastern end of Lake Erie by the 19<sup>th</sup>, and the lake reached a warm 45 °F by the end of the month.

The very warm weather at the end of the month brought in an incredible number of warbler species. The twenty-three warbler species including such rarities as KENTUCKY WARBLER, two YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS, and a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER is the highest in our seventy-six years of records. The previous April high, nineteen warbler species, occurred in 2009 when the monthly average temperature reached 1.4 °F above normal. The lowest warbler species count for April, only three in 1936, occurred when the monthly average temperature was 3.6 °F below normal.

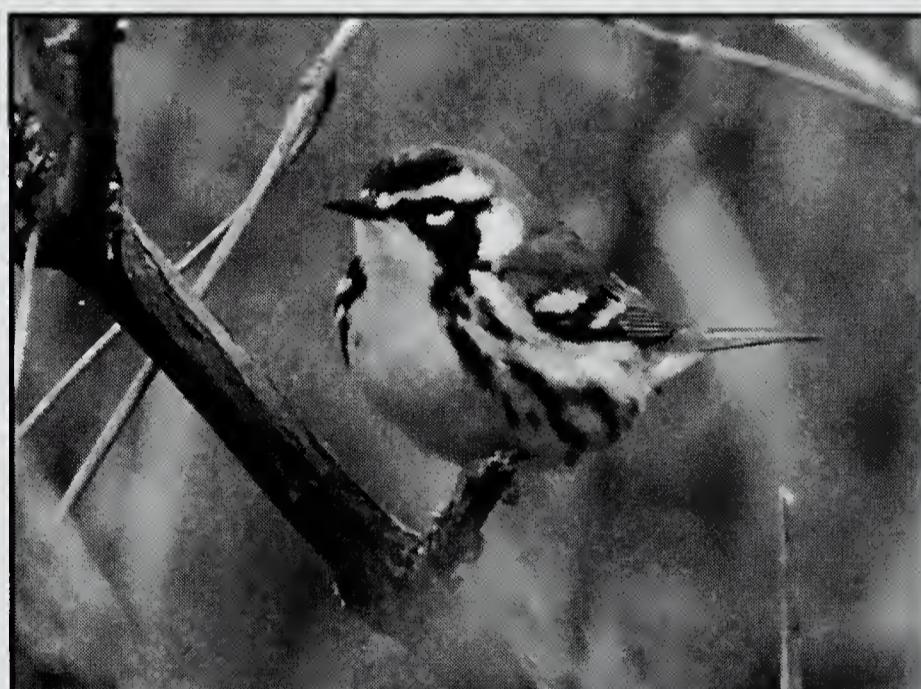
It was the third wettest April in 141 years of records with 5.69 inches of total precipitation, 2.65 inches above normal. There was measurable precipitation on twelve of the last fifteen days with trace amounts on the other three causing local flooding on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. There were no fair days during the month. Twenty-one days were cloudy and nine were partly cloudy. Only 34% of possible sunshine resulted in the third cloudiest April. Edgar Allan Poe's words in his poem "The Raven" best describe the month: "darkness," "dreary," and

"weary." Although it was not too favorable for fair weather birders, it was great for migratory fallouts and passionate birders.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> the month's strongest sustained winds were 46 mph,

with gusts of 63 mph with an azimuth of 250°. In Niagara County gusts were over 80 mph.

There were forty written verification reports this month accompanied by twenty-one photos. Half of the reports were either from the April Count (6) or during the very warm period from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> (14). This



(Upper) Yellow-throated Warbler photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Pt. Gratiot in Dunkirk on April 17<sup>th</sup> and (Lower) Kentucky Warbler photographed by Richard Johnson in St. Catharines, Ontario on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

33	<b>The Month</b> <i>Bill Watson</i>
37	<b>Hamburg Hawk Watch 2011</b> <i>Jim Landau, Coordinator</i>
38	<b>Field Trip Report</b> <i>Bill Watson &amp; Dave Gordon</i>
39	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> <i>Bruce Chilton &amp; Statisticians</i>
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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson

**Society Officers:**

President: Thomas O'Donnell

V. President: Michael Morgante

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AUG : |

earliest record (photograph on page 45). Although Sora has been found on thirteen of our seventy-six April Counts, only the April 3, 1949 BOS April Count has an earlier sighting.

The Common Tern observed on the Niagara River from Artpark in Lewiston by Jim Pawlicki on the 4<sup>th</sup> is our earliest record, eclipsing the April 5, 1981 record of Bob Andrle.

Forster's Tern is seldom seen in April and although there are five records in the 1960-2009 database they are all on or after April 23. To have two records, one by Doug Beattie on the April 10 Bird Count at Batavia W. W. T. P. and one by Jim Pawlicki on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Rich Marine in Buffalo is truly amazing. Forster's Tern has also been recorded on recent April Bird Counts: April 10, 1994; April 9, 2006; and April 13, 2008 suggesting a change in its arrival status. More exceptionally early arrivals should be expected.

Also on the 2011 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count was an extremely early Eastern Kingbird found by Lynn Landon and Art Hannah at Short Hills P. P., Ontario. The previous earliest record was of one found by the Wendlings on Nice Road in Newstead on April 16, 1960, during an "unusually warm period from April 12 to 17" (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965).

is the largest number of written reports in ten years. In April 2001 there were an enormous fifty-eight verification reports.

**Early arrivals:** A early migrant Brant was found among Canada and Cackling Geese by Jim Pawlicki on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Town of Gaines, Orleans County and observed later that morning by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter (photograph on page 45). There are only four other April records of Brant.

The five Dunlins recorded by Chris Newton on the April 10 Bird Count represent the sixth earliest arrival for this species.

The Sora found by Pat Morton on the USDA Wetland Reserve Lands in Conewango Twp., Cattaraugus County is our third

On April 22, Joe Mitchell and Jim Pawlicki discovered an early Marsh Wren at the north blind at Tifft N. P. making this, probably, our fifth earliest arrival. However, based on records of January 10, 1886 (collected at Orchard Park), February 22, 1950 (Tifft), and December 22, 1957, (Buckhorn Island S. P.), this species has been known to winter. Therefore, as with Brant, the possibility of a lingering wintering bird should not be discounted.

There were a remarkable number of early warblers this month. In 2001, when Debbie Sharon found a Black-throated Green Warbler at Tifft Nature Preserve on the early date of April 12<sup>th</sup> I thought there would never be an earlier record. I was wrong. On the April 11, 2010 BOS Bird Count Mike Zebehazy and Doug Happ found an even earlier Black-throated Green Warbler in the woods at Erie Beach, Ft. Erie. Then, a scant year later, Richard Salembier found one on April 11<sup>th</sup> in his backyard at 31 Forest Stream Court in Williamsville! Nearby, but later in the month, on April 30<sup>th</sup> Gerry Rising had a Prothonotary Warbler at Amherst State Park. Only the Prothonotary Warbler found by Robert Andrle on April 26, 1987 at Tifft N. P. and likely refound by Willie D'Anna on the 28<sup>th</sup> is earlier. The American Redstart found at Beaver Island State Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> by Jim Pawlicki is tied for our earliest ever arrival with an American Redstart observed by Holmes and Ruhl in East Aurora (1994).

The Scarlet Tanager found by Mark Schlacter, Alec Humann, and yours truly is our fifth April record. Only the one seen April 19, 1975, at Burgeson Sanctuary in Frewsburg by Elderkin and Pillsbury, and the two on the April 10, 1988 Bird Count are earlier.

**Late Departures:** On the BOS April Count Doug Beattie was on Paradise Road in the town of Bethany counting thirty-one waxwings in the crowns of two ash trees when he noticed "one bird appeared to be slightly larger than the others. Honing in on this bird," he "saw a mousy grey chest and belly and a stockier bird than the



Indigo Bunting photographed by Willie D'Anna in Somerset on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

others." After studying the bird in more detail he realized it was a BOHEMIAN WAXWING. This is the first record of a Bohemian Waxwing on the BOS April Count! The only later observations of this species are the bird at Thorold, Ontario, April 20 & 22, 1965, by Salisbury, and the Port Colborne, Ontario find by Marge Partridge on the May 21, 2006 Count.

**Rarities:** Among the rarest and oddest birds are the hybrids. On the BOS April 10, 2011 Bird Count, David Gordon and Chris Newton observed a Eurasian X American Wigeon accompanied by a Eurasian Wigeon and many American Wigeons at The Tonawanda WMA. This is probably the same bird that Peter Yeorg studied at Klossen Marsh and described in his April 4 e-mail to the GeneseeBirds listserv.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> while looking out over Lake Ontario from the end of Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road, Jim Pawlicki was surprised to find an Eared Grebe. There are only five April Eared Grebe records in the 1960-2009 Noteworthy Record Database.

Some people have all the luck. Chip Wesseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region was pumping gas at the Esso station at 408 Ontario Street in St. Catharines when he saw an American White Pelican fly overhead! I never seem to see any pelicans when I am pumping gas. April is the best month for American White Pelicans and there are now six records in this month.

Snowy Egrets usually show up in May and June and the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: The Niagara Frontier Region* indicates that they are very rare at this time; however, this April we had two! On the very early date of April 11 Chris Newton found one at Tifft Nature Preserve while walking along Mosquito Junction Board Walk. (The only earlier Snowy Egret was discovered by Marcie Foster at Pinehurst, Hamburg, April 10, 1978.) Then on the 26<sup>th</sup> early in the morning, Brett Ewald found a Snowy Egret at the Tonawanda WMA in the ponds at the intersection of Griswold Street and Route 77. A second egret joined this one and Jerry Lazarczyk and this writer documented both. At least one of the egrets stayed until the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps the rarest bird this month was the Yellow-crowned Night Heron that was found at Tifft N. P on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Alec Humann and Art Buddington were walking down Old Tifft Street when they flushed a group of nine smaller herons. Alec identified the birds in flight and when they (seven adult Black-crowned Night-Herons, one second year Black-crowned Night-Heron, and the adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron) landed in a cottonwood tree they were, "able to take note of all the field marks including the slate gray body with black head and bold white cheek patch and crown." Skinner found the only earlier Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on April 23, 1996 at Beaver Island S. P.

Since the 1960-2009 Noteworthy Database has only four April records of Black Vulture, it is extremely unusual to have two accounts this month. The first was spotted on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Willie D'Anna along Youngstown-Wilson Road in Wilson. Jim Landau initially saw the second on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the William D. Williams Ball Park (Hamburg Hawk Watch). This is our latest April record; however there are three early May records.

Although there are thirty April records in the 1960-2009 Database, Golden Eagle requires a verification report because it can be confused with other species such as some types of immature Bald Eagles. This April there were an unprecedented four verification reports of five individual Golden Eagles: two at Lakeside Beach State Park that were seen by Tom and Sue O'Donnell during the count; one at Lakeside Memorial Park (Hamburg Hawk Watch) by Jim Pawlicki on April 9; one at Shadigee on April 23 by Willie D'Anna; and another two were seen by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter on April 27 at North Beebe Road and the other at Route 18 in the town of Wilson. Like Black Vultures, Golden Eagles are becoming more common in our area in spring.

A striking dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk on April 2<sup>nd</sup> was documented by Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna, a day after it was discovered by Dave Tetlow (see photograph on page 45). This bird was found in the Town of Gaines (north of Albion) on Gaines Basin Road (the same road where the early Brant was found). This is at least the second accepted record of this form in the BOS archives. The first was observed by Mike Turisk, Betsy Potter, and Willie D'Anna on April 9, 1994 in the Town of Yates, as it was migrating along the Lake Ontario shoreline. There are now annual reports of dark-morph Red-tailed Hawks from hawk-watches along the shores of the Great Lakes, although few are documented. Since a dark morph of the Eastern subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk has never been documented, it is assumed that all such birds derive from the Western subspecies, *B. j. calurus*, also known



Snowy Egrets photographed by (top) Jim Pawlicki at Tonawanda WMA on April 26<sup>th</sup> and (below) Chris Newton at Tifft NP on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

as "Western Red-tailed Hawk". This is the first BOS record accepted specifically as *B. j. calurus*.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> on North Beebe Road in the Town of Wilson Willie D'Anna was witnessing a massive Broad-winged Hawk flight (2,250) when he noticed an odd hawk. "The wings, which were spread for soaring, appeared relatively narrow and tapered to somewhat pointed tips. They were held in a dihedral, that is angling up from the body to the wingtip, similar to a Turkey Vulture (also seen here). Unlike a Vulture, this bird did not rock back and forth noticeably." Further study confirmed the fact that the bird was a Swainson's Hawk. There are only four Swainson's Hawks in the 1960-2009 Database and only two of these have occurred in April.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Willie D'Anna, Jim Pawlicki and others collectively had two Black-headed Gulls in Buffalo at Harry's Harbor Place dock along the Niagara River (photograph on page 45). In the 1960-2009 Database there are six April records of this species, but this year's birds are the latest migrants.

Common Ravens continue to be seen more often in the northern one-third of our territory away from the Allegany Plateau. Jim Pawlicki had two migrating separately on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside Memorial Park (Hamburg Hawk Watch) and one and possible two at the NRG Huntley Operations Plant on River Road in Tonawanda (photograph on page 45). Jim entertained the possibility that these birds could be nesting on plant property.

There were three very rare warblers this month: Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated. The Worm-eating Warbler was first found by Alec Humann (who showed it to Art Buddington) on the 26<sup>th</sup> along Snakeroot Trail at Tifft Nature Preserve. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Jim Wojewodzki probably observed the same bird. The only other April Worm-eating Warblers are one at Point Gratiot by Brownstein and Benton 4-29-64, one at Beaver Meadow by Vivian Pitzrick 4-22-76, and one at New Albion by Rupp 4-26-91.

Kentucky Warbler is a fairly late warbler with a median arrival date of May 17, so our first April 30<sup>th</sup> record of this species came as a complete surprise. In his verification report Kayo Roy relates, "An e-mail on the evening of 30 April 2011 from Richard Johnson alerted me to the presence of a Kentucky Warbler in his backyard at 6 Broadview Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario. I immediately telephoned Mr. Johnson asking him to call me should the bird reappear the following morning. I did not have to wait very long; at 0845 hours the call came advising me that the bird was still present. I contacted John Black and Mr. Johnson telephoned Karl Dix (a close personal birding friend) and the four of us observed the bird in his backyard from 1010 to 1015 hours..." the bird then moved to the front yard (see photograph above).

There are only four previous occurrences of Yellow-throated Warbler in April, so the fact that we had two this month is truly incredible (photograph above). The Yellow-throated Warbler studied on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Point Gratiot by Jim Pawlicki is our earliest April record, while the one found by Jean and Blayne Farnan and Kayo Roy on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> at 11418 Moore Road,

Burnaby, (Township of Wainfleet), Ontario, is our latest April record. Kayo "looked for the lore colour and did not see any yellow.... not even a tinge" and indicated the bird was of the *albilora* subspecies. Unlike Kayo's bird, Jim's photo and description indicate a generous amount of yellow in the supraloral region. As to the subspecies identification of his bird Jim notes: "the presence of yellow in the supraloral region is suggestive of the coastal nominate race *D. d. dominica*, although the fact that the lores themselves are distinctly white is at odds with most *dominica*, and suggestive of the (expected) interior race *D. d. albipila*. The apparent presence of yellow on the chin up to the base of the bill is also suggestive of *dominica*, although Dunn and Garrett (Peterson Warblers) give the impression that subspecific ID based on these characters can be tentative at best and mostly based on range, noting that 'many *albilora* have a yellow tinge to supraloral area, and some nominate *dominica* appear almost whitish there.' Regarding chin coloration, they also note that 'most, but not all *albilora* show some white on the extreme upper chin, an average difference from the yellow-chinned nominate race (some individual *dominica* show white on the uppermost chin).' Given the amount of overlapping variation amongst the two subspecies, it would appear that only the extremes of each would be identifiable out of range, and given the intermediate subspecific features, it would obviously be best to label the bird as indeterminate."

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

Happ D., D. DiTommaso, D. D. Suggs et al. BOS Noteworthy Data Base 1960-2009. [www.happtech.com/BOSNoteworthy/NoteworthyRecords>ShowNoteworthyRecordsTableGeneral.aspx](http://www.happtech.com/BOSNoteworthy/NoteworthyRecords>ShowNoteworthyRecordsTableGeneral.aspx)

Thomas, D. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc. BOS/RBA Braddock Bay Field Trip.

# Spring 2011 Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary

Jim Landau

**Weather Factors:** Spring of 2011 was the wettest on record in the Buffalo area, with May being the rainiest ever. A review of our Daily Reports on <http://hawkcount.org> reveals a challenging spring weather pattern. We tallied 13 days when no raptors were seen, 7 of those when no count was conducted due to poor weather. When not faced with precipitation, many counters experienced moderate to strong northerly winds. Few days allowed the conditions needed for thermal updraft development which provides lift for migrating soaring birds like raptors. And yet, the watch ended with its second highest season and its highest March ever. The following Monthly Climate Summaries were obtained from the National Weather Service Office in Buffalo.

**March:** Winter only reluctantly loosened its grip on our region during March as a mid-month spring preview gave way to a more wintry cold finish to the month. March overall averaged out cold and wet with near normal snowfall. Sunshine however was frequent and abundant. Lake Erie remained filled with ice, with about 600 square miles left by month's end. The first half of the month proved to be a slow start to the hawk migration season. Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk all held off making an appearance until the 8<sup>th</sup>, and we didn't see any 3-digit days until the 14<sup>th</sup>, when Turkey Vulture kicked into high gear. Their robust showing accounted for a new "Highest March total" for the watch.

**April:** We experienced a cloudy and wet April as a persistent track of storms led to an active month with late season snows, rain and thunderstorms. It was a typical month for temperatures as late season chill and early spring warmth fluctuated through the month. It was the third cloudiest April on record with only 34% possible sunshine. Ice across the eastern portion of Lake Erie cleared out by the 19<sup>th</sup>, with the lake warming to 45 degrees by month's end. Always our busiest hawk migration month, April produced 15 of the 16 species that can be expected at Hamburg, Peregrine Falcon being the only "no show." This month also generated our sole Black Vulture and the first of two Northern Goshawks.

**May:** Excessive rain and cloudiness were the rule during May. It was Buffalo's wettest ever and combined with March and April to give the region its soggiest spring in 141 years of record-keeping. The month began with a couple of wet days but then featured a very pleasant ten day period from the 4-13<sup>th</sup> with only 0.02 inches of rain. This interlude ended with a record warm day on the 13<sup>th</sup> and then the deluges began, three of the following five days received an inch or more of rain, with a very cold day on 16<sup>th</sup>. Daily flights continued on the light side. Two final "potentially promising" days of watching on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> added some numbers but not the hoped-for significant movement of immature Broad-winged Hawks.

**Data Table:** The table represents the past 10 seasons, with this season's count data also broken down by month. Highlighted cells indicate high counts for some of the species identified at the watch.

Highest March total: 7,952 (2011). Highest April total: 12,134 (2010).

Highest May total: 1,167 (2007). Highest season total: 19,117 (2010).

	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
Feb		5									5							10
Mar		7361		16	8	13	16		85		408	3		7	3	2	30	7952
Apr	1	4589	46	23	29	530	66	1	23	2731	454	30	6	72	4	47	8652	
May		521	14	14	1	65	10	1		130	56			5			8	825
2011	1	12476	60	53	38	608	92	2	108	2861	923	33	6	84	7	2	85	17439
2010		13445	73	63	44	583	136		419	2812	1314	57	2	58	5	6	100	19117
2009	2	13174	90	54	40	410	126		177	1334	1212	18	2	73	8	6	58	16784
2008		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	10	3	90	14283
2007		9326	110	28	39	410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65	13010
2006	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	14136
2005		7838	109	42	76	525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	13141
2004	2	7723	91	39	104	395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	11938
2003		8872	151	29	101	889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	17411
2002		8505	103	23	65	611	129	2	218	1132	1223	21	1	75	7	2	120	12237

## Species abbreviations

**BV** Black Vulture **TV** Turkey Vulture **OS** Osprey **BE** Bald Eagle **NH** Northern Harrier

**SS** Sharp-shinned Hawk **CH** Cooper's Hawk **NG** Northern Goshawk **RS** Red-shouldered Hawk **BW** Broad-winged Hawk **RT** Red-tailed Hawk **RL** Rough-legged Hawk **GE** Golden Eagle

**AK** American Kestrel **ML** Merlin **PG** Peregrine Falcon **UR** Unknown Raptor

**Species Reports:** Never a sure thing, Black Vulture is a species that makes a sporadic appearance at Hamburg and this season did produce one sighting, in a season which had numerous reports from other neighboring watches. After 7 years of consecutive increases, Turkey Vulture numbers backed off a little bit but not enough to announce an end to their dramatic population rise. Osprey made the poorest showing in many years and evidences an unmistakable downward trend over a 10-year span, contradicting the rise of nesting pairs in Western NY. The well-documented nesting success story for Bald Eagle is corroborated by their migration numbers from many hawk watches, and that trend follows true for this watch as well. Northern Harrier continues to show relative stability, despite unimpressive numbers. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk both continue stable trends while Northern Goshawk, never abundant, made a 2 bird showing after a two-year absence from the watch. The buteos as a group turned up in numbers consistent with the past decade. A breakdown by species reveals a gradual decline for Red-shouldered Hawk, a gradual increase for Broad-winged Hawk, relative stability for Red-tailed Hawk and nothing conclusive about Rough-legged Hawk (perhaps due to insufficient numbers of individuals). Golden Eagle turned in a new high count for the watch, albeit still in the single digits. Falcons as a group showed a very small 10-year decline largely tracking the American Kestrel trend. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon held steady.

Sixty-five non-raptor species provided additional welcome interest for watchers, with Snow Goose, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Pileated Woodpecker and Common Raven of special note.

Hamburg Hawk Watch is an "all volunteer" spring watch. It is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park on Route 75 in Hamburg and is about 1 mile from Lake Erie shore. Dedicated coverage runs from March 1 through May 15. All of the data generated is uploaded to HawkCount.org, a database of information maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. The main web page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of additional raptor information and links. Data from Hamburg and many other watches can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>

#### Acknowledgements

Hamburg Hawk Watch would not exist without the participation of our volunteer counters.

The coordinator most gratefully acknowledges the considerable commitment of time and effort of Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy. These "Hawk Watch Heroes" could be found at the watch week in and week out, good flights and poor, scanning through sharp sunny glare and cold misty rain for that next raptor to pass by. Thanks are also given to Tom Connare, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Dave Feliciano, Chris Newton, Sharon Sisti and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan. They all contributed their time to provide count coverage at the watch this season. Many others stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration. Their support, knowledge and interest are always a welcome addition.

Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com).

## BOS/RBA Braddock Bay Field Trip

*Bill Watson and Dave Gordon*

On the way to Braddock Bay the BOS contingent spied 27 species including Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, and Eastern Meadowlark. The fields at Somerset-Hartland Townline Road and Johnson Creek Road held 51 Green-winged Teal and a Northern Pintail Duck, but no shorebirds. In the pond on the Yates side of Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road there were another 22 Green-winged Teal and a few American Black Ducks. We also had a male Northern Harrier in Hartland Twp. and a female Northern Harrier along Route 18 in Yates.

At Braddock Bay Hawk Watch among the hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks, there were Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. Fortunately, a minor frontal system was approaching and there was a flurry of raptor activity before a light shower reached us at lunch-time. We observed a Merlin, many immature and adult Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawk, and Northern Harriers. A beautiful dark phase Rough-legged Hawk put on a beautiful show nearly overhead, while a very cooperative GOLDEN EAGLE allowed us to study it for what seemed like at least 10 minutes! The day produced 816 Turkey Vultures, 3 Ospreys, 62 Northern Harriers, 410 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 48 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Northern Goshawks, 5 Red-shouldered Hawks, 653 Broad-winged Hawks, 588 Red-tailed Hawks, 7 Rough-legged Hawks, 2 Golden Eagles, 22 American Kestrels, and 4 Merlins for a total of 2,646 raptors!

Kim Sucy then took us to Owl Woods where she pointed out three Northern Saw-whet Owls, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper and White-breasted Nuthatch. Then she took us to the banding station where we got close up and personal to a Sharp-shinned Hawk while it was banded and released. Next we visited a Great Horned nest near the Rochester Gas and Electric Building, and watched an adorable nestling Great Horned owl peeking out at us, from underneath its incubating mother.

On the way back we stopped at Hamlin Beach and observed Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Red-necked Grebes, and Common Loons. It was a great field trip with a total of 66 bird species (fourteen of which were raptors). Thanks to David Gordon and Kim Sucy for leading this trip.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	1	1	Carlton	D Tetlow
Snow Goose	4, 19; 20	1, 1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Lazarczyk
Brant	2	1	Albion	Pawlicki; D'Anna et al
Cackling Goose	1	7	Carlton	D Tetlow
"	2	4	Gaines	Pawlicki
"	4	4	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Mute Swan	22; 24	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Watson
Tundra Swan	7; 22	18; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Morien
"	30	1	Kiantone	Berry
Wood Duck	24	42	Shelby	C Morien
Gadwall	7	22	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Eurasian Wigeon	1-7	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Broderick, Watson et al
"	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Hollister
"	29	1	Elba	Fox
American Wigeon	7	662	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Eur X Amer Wigeon	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Blue-winged Teal	19	16	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
Northern Shoveler	5, 8, 24	7, 8, 4	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	26	50	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Northern Pintail	7	223	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29; 30	168; 73	Elba	Fox; Dart, Beattie
Green-winged Teal	17	51	Hartland	Watson
"	19	270	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	29	417	Elba	Fox
Canvasback	2	7	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	4	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	30	7	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante
Redhead	3; 22	186; 30	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Watson; Mitchell
"	5	13	UB Ponds, Amherst	Salembier
"	7, 30	45, 18	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	22	15	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Ring-necked Duck	3	22	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	2; 7	98; 52	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	14, 19	240, 240	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
Greater Scaup	30	70	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante
"	30	32	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	3	200	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7; 30	192; 194	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	22	44	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
King Eider	3, 15; 27	3	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson; Fox
"	21	1 fem	Wilson Pier	Lazarczyk, D'Anna
Surf Scoter	6; 16; 22	1; 1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Fox; Lazarczyk
"	24	2	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	22	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Fox
Black Scoter	2; 6, 9	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Long-tailed Duck	3	32	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Bufflehead	7; 30	64; 222	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	14, 19	46, 20	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
Common Goldeneye	30	1	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Hooded Merganser	2; 16	103; 96	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14	46	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Red-br. Merganser	24	250	Niagara River	Watson
Ruddy Duck	9; 30	292; 367	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	30	12	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante
Red-throated Loon	1	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	24	73	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	14	203	Somerset to Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki
"	22	16	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Horned Grebe	7	21	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19	20	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	24	17	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
Red-necked Grebe	24	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Eared Grebe	14	1	Yates	Pawlicki
* <u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	6	1 ad	St. Catharines (Ont)	Weseloh
D.-crested Cormorant	5	116 + 28 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	17	728	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	18	90	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	20	100	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	24	1060	Motor I.	Watson
American Bittern	11	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	21, 24	1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Great Blue Heron	12	114 + 86 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	24	110 + 56 n	Motor I.	Watson
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	11	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	26	2	Tonawanda WMA	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
* <u>Green Heron</u>	16F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	24	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	24	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Black-cr. Night-Heron	5	32	Motor I.	Watson
"	8	106	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	21	172	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
* <u>Yellow-cr. Night-Heron</u>	26	1 ad	Tifft NP	Humann
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau, Watson
Turkey Vulture	8; 9	605; 1729	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Hamilton; Deleon et al
"	8, 9	1843, 2224	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
Osprey	5	2 ad + n	Tonawanda	Sharon, Watson
"	9	22	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Deleons et al
"	13	2 ad + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	22	2 + n	Tifft NP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	27	2 + n	Wheatfield	Pawlicki
"	30	3 ad + 2 n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bald Eagle	13	2 ad + n	Strawberry I.	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	13, 21	1 ad + 2 n	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	17	5	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	2 + n	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	24	2 + n	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	25	1 ad + 2 n	Hanover	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	10	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
"	27	17	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9, 10	84, 417	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	26	240	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
* <u>Northern Goshawk</u>	2; 17	1 ad; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter; Yoerg
"	27	1	Alden	Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Broad-winged Hawk	9F	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	26	2250	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
"	26	5854	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	27	2250	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Swainson's Hawk	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-tailed Hawk	9	162	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Deleon et al
Red-tailed Hawk				
<i>B. j. calurus</i>	2	1 ad	Gaines	D'Anna, Pawlicki et al
Rough-legged Hawk	9	23	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki, Deleons et al
"	27	8	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	9	1 imm	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Pawlicki et al
"	23	1	Shadigee	D'Anna et al
"	27	2 imm	Wilson	D'Anna et al
American Kestrel	10, 26	108, 56	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	26	27	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy et al
Merlin	8; 17	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	20	1	Alabama	Pawlicki
"	25	2 (m & f)	Salamanca	Baird
"	27	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	27	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
Peregrine Falcon	4	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	7	1	Alabama	Watson, Schlacter
"	17	1	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	3	Ripley Hawkwatch	Randell et al
"	27	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	27	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Humann
* Virginia Rail	21F	1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
* Sora	<u>6F, 8</u>	1	Conewango	Morton
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
* Common Moorhen	18F; 19	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; C Morien
"	20	1 dead	Derby	fide Rising
"	30	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
American Coot	19; 30	171; 56	Iroquois NWR	C Morien; Watson
Sandhill Crane	22	2	Tifft NP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	26; 28	3; 2	Iroquois NWR	Fox; C Morien
"	29	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Spotted Sandpiper	12F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	15	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Hollister
* Solitary Sandpiper	24F	2	Kiantone	Berry
"	26, 27	2, 2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Greater Yellowlegs	18; 30	35; 60	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Mitchell
"	23	12	Kiantone	Berry
"	27; 30	38; 17	Elba	Fox; Dart, Beattie
Lesser Yellowlegs	15; 18	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Hollister; D'Anna
"	27; 30	138; 65	Elba	Dart, Beattie
"	30	14	Kiantone	Berry
* Pectoral Sandpiper	6F, 20	1, 9	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell et al
"	14	24	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
Dunlin	18; 26	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Watson
"	24	2	Kiantone	Berry
"	30	2	Alexander	Dart
"	30	17	Elba	D Tetlow
Bonaparte's Gull	4	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	5	Shelby	C Morien
"	15; 30	5500;3000	Buffalo	Pawlicki; Hess
"	16	16	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	24	12	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
Black-headed Gull	<u>22</u>	2; 1	Buffalo	Pawlicki; Watson, D'Anna
Little Gull	15	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	22	3	Buffalo	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Iceland Gull	13	3	Goat I.	Watson
"	17; 25	2; 1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lesser Black-b. Gull	3	1	Goat I.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17, 28	1, 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	12; 28	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	20	1	Yates	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Hamburg Beach	Zebehazy
* Caspian Tern	4F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Akios
"	9	3	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	12; 17	100; 98	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; Pawlicki
* Black Tern	26F; 28	12; 21	Iroquois NWR	Fox; C Morien
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
* Common Tern	4F	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	9	2	Wilson Harbor	Salembier
"	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Hartwig, Beattie
"	9; 11	33, 82; 90	Buffalo	Watson; Pawlicki
"	24	2	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
* Forster's Tern	9, 10	1	Batavia WWTP	Hartwig, Beattie, Fox
"	11	1	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Short-eared Owl	17	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21, 24, 26	1, 1, 1	Shelby	C Morien
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Humann
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	4, 5	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter et al
* Chimney Swift	25F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	26	5	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	30F	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Red-headed Wdpkr.	30	1	Colden	J&K Landau
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	4F	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4F	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Flicker	11	31	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Least Flycatcher	26F	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	28	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	26F	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	28	1	Alden	Young
Eastern Kingbird	26	1	Tifft NP	C Morien, Watson
"	26	2	Eden	Andrle
"	26	5	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Shrike	1	1	Carlton	D Tetlow
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	30F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	C Morien
Blue-headed Vireo	16	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Warbling Vireo	27F	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	27F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	27F	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Watson et al
Common Raven	9	2	<u>Hamburg Hawkwatch</u>	Pawlicki et al
"	10	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	21	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	21, 22	1, 1	<u>Tonawanda</u>	Pawlicki
"	22	3	East Concord	J&K Landau
Purple Martin	20	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	23	5	Bethany	Beattie
Tree Swallow	26	900	Elba	Fox
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	9F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	11	5	Tifft NP	Watson, Newton
* Bank Swallow	20F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Cliff Swallow	27F	1	Alexander	Dart
"	27F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson, Humann
"	28	11	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	30	8	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Morgante
* Barn Swallow	5F	2	Alexander	Dart; Dart, Beattie
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Carolina Wren	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	14, 27	1	Eden (f)	Andrle

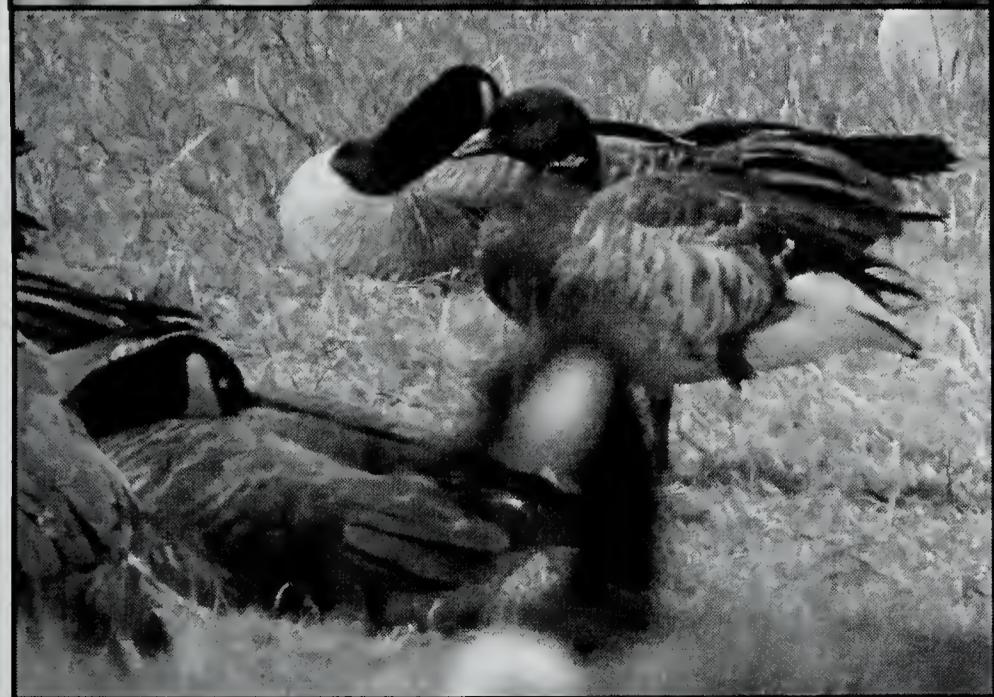
<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27, 30	1, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
* House Wren	25F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	25F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
* Winter Wren	7	3	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Marsh Wren	<u>22F</u> , 23	1	Tifft NP	Mitchell, Pawlicki; Sharon
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Golden-cr. Kinglet	4	10	Williamsville	Salembier
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	23F	2	Tifft NP	Salembier, Sharon
"	24	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Hermit Thrush	8F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	11; 20	4; 26	Tifft NP	Watson, Newton; Morien
* Wood Thrush	27F	1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
"	27F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	28	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki
American Robin	4	2350	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Gray Catbird	26F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	26F	2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Northern Mockingbird	25	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	27	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Brown Thrasher	11	2	Tifft NP	Watson
* Blue-winged Warbler	27F	2	Alden	Young
"	27F	2	Lewiston	Sly
"	30	1	Oak Orchard WMA	C Morien
* Nashville Warbler	26F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26F	1	Alden	Young
* Northern Parula	27F	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon et al
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Yellow Warbler	24F	2	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	24F	1	Sandusky	Fox
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	30F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Magnolia Warbler	27F	1	Tifft NP	Rising
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	<u>27F</u>	1	Tifft NP	Galas, Rising; Sharon
Yellow-r. Warbler	16	15	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	26	27	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	27	18	Tifft NP	Watson
* Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	<u>11F</u>	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
* Blackburnian Warbler	<u>26F</u>	1	Wilson	Potter
"	30	1	Oak Orchard WMA	C Morien
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	17	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki et al
"	29	1	Burnaby (Ont)	Roy, Farnans
* Pine Warbler	4F	1	Colden(f)	Newton
"	12 - 23	1 - 2	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	16	9	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Palm Warbler	24F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24F	1	Sandusky	Fox
"	26	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Black-&-White Warbler	26F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	26F	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	26F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26F	1	Alden	Young
* American Redstart	<u>27F</u>	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
* Prothonotary Warbler	<u>30F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Rising
* Worm-eating Warbler	<u>26F</u> ; 30	1; 1	Tifft NP	Humann; Wojewodzki
* Ovenbird	26F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	26F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26F	3	Tifft NP	Humann
* Northern Waterthrush	26F	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	26F	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* La. Waterthrush	11F	1	Tifft NP	Fox
"	24	1	Emery Park	Newton
* <u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	30	1	St. Catharine's (ONT)	Johnson
* Common Yellowthroat	27F	1	Eden	Andrle
"	27F	1	Alden	Young
* Hooded Warbler	26F	1	Colden	J Landau
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	C Morien
Eastern Towhee	2	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
Amer. Tree Sparrow	27	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	28	6	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
* Chipping Sparrow	1F	2	Belfast	Gawinski
"	6	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Field Sparrow	2F	4	Belfast	Gawinski
"	6	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Vesper Sparrow	24	1	Shelby	C Morien
"	30	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Welte
Savannah Sparrow	3F	1	Barre	Carlson
"	9	1	Royalton	Salembier
* Grasshopper Sparrow	30F	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
Fox Sparrow	11; 20	17; 15	Tifft NP	Watson; Salembier
"	27	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
White-cr. Sparrow	11	1	Tifft NP	Newton, Watson
"	16-26	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	26	1	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
Lapland Longspur	1	40	Carlton	D Tetlow
"	3	24	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	20	12	Shelby	Mitchell, Pawlicki
* Scarlet Tanager	<u>27F</u>	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Schlacter et al
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	26F	1	Colden	J Landau
"	26F	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	26F	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	26F	1	Fredonia	Goetz
"	27	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	27	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Schlacter
* Indigo Bunting	<u>27F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Bobolink	29F	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	30	4	Knox Farm SP	Carbone
Red-w. Blackbird	4	4700	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Rusty Blackbird	21	30	Barre	C Morien
"	24	20	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	26	<u>3500</u>	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	26	<u>2500</u>	Tonawanda WMA	Fox
"	29	19	Basom	Mitchell
Common Grackle	4	1400	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Baltimore Oriole	27F	3	Colden	J Landau
"	27F	1	Alden	Coniglio
"	28	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	28	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Purple Finch	22	8	Bethany	Beattie
"	23	6	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
Common Redpoll	5, 20	60, 2	Youngstown (f)	Landon, Yonker
"	2, 3; 26	50; 1	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	5	28	Bethany	Beattie
"	15, 16	3, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
Pine Siskin	15, 26	1, 4	Bethany	Beattie
"	21, 30	6, 3	Fredonia	Goetz
"	21	6	Shelby	Morien

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	23	10	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 145  
 New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 075  
 Total for the year 2011: 220

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(clockwise from upper left) Black-headed Gull in Buffalo on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jim Pawlicki; Dark morph Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*) in the Town of Gaines, Orleans County on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Willie D'Anna; Common Raven in Tonawanda on April 21<sup>st</sup>, Jim Pawlicki; Brant (with Canada Goose) in the Town of Gaines, Orleans County on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Willie D'Anna; Sora in Conewango Township, Cattaraugus County on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Pat Morton.

# Report of the 2011 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 10, 2011

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Holly Sweeney

## Weather Synopsis

Weather during the count was highly variable ranging from fog along Lakes Erie and Ontario early, to afternoon thunderstorms, to abrupt temperature increases as a warm front moved through the count area mid afternoon. Following passage of the warm front skies cleared briefly. Light easterly winds then shifted to gusty winds from the southwest shifting again later in the day to steady light winds from the south.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:43 AM EDT      Sunset: 7:52 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	43° F	37° F	1016.9 mb	SW 7 mph	
3:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	44	39	1016.0	S 6	
6:00 am	Cloudy	44	39	1016.9	SE 3	
9:00 am	Cloudy	49	44	1016.1	S 12	
12:00 pm	Cloudy	55	47	1014.9	E 6	
3:00 pm	Cloudy	71	52	1008.1	SW 14	Passage of Warm Front
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	77	55	1003.5	SW 20 G25	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	65	51	1004.5	SW 7	
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	63	51	1003.6	S 7	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

### G e e s e - H e r o n s

Snow Goose	1	(3)	Long-tailed duck	1629	
Canada Goose	11085		Bufflehead	1986	
Mute Swan	37		Common Goldeneye	172	
Tundra Swan	28		Hooded Merganser	269	
Wood Duck	438		Common Merganser	336	
Gadwall	76		Red-breasted Merganser	13052	
Eurasian Wigeon	2	(5,10)	Ruddy Duck	238	
American Wigeon	827		unspecified ducks	5	
Eur X Amer Wigeon	1	(10)			
American Black Duck	101		Ring-necked Pheasant	16	
Mallard	982		* Ruffed Grouse	4	(13,22)
Blue-winged Teal	115		Wild Turkey	232	
Northern Shoveler	180		Red-throated Loon	12	(2,3,4)
Northern Pintail	130		Common Loon	90	
Green-winged Teal	247		Pied-billed Grebe	60	
Canvasback	58	(1,7,11)	Horned Grebe	271	
Redhead	305		Red-necked Grebe	85	
Ring-necked Duck	1197		Double-crested Cormorant	2549	
Greater Scaup	92		* American Bittern	F	2 (10)
Lesser Scaup	1878		Great Blue Heron		411
Unspecified scaup	24		Great Egret		22 (8,9)
Surf Scoter	1	(2)			
White-winged Scoter	59		Black-crowned Night-Heron	253	(2,7,9)
Black Scoter	1	(1)			

**Vultures - Cranes**

Turkey Vulture	4607	unspecified buteos	1
Osprey	40	<b>Golden Eagle</b>	2 (5)
Bald Eagle	34	American Kestrel	180
Northern Harrier	46	Merlin	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	241	Peregrine Falcon	4 (7,11)
Cooper's Hawk	73	unspecified falcon	1
unspecified accipiter	3	unspecified hawks	24
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	American Coot	190
Broad-winged Hawk	9 (14,17,20)		
Red-tailed Hawk	379		
Rough-legged Hawk	20		

**Plovers - Terns**

Killdeer	383	Ring-billed Gull	28843
Greater Yellowlegs	9 (3,10,13)	Herring Gull	3331
* Lesser Yellowlegs	F 9 (3,10,23)	Iceland Gull	2 (2,3)
Pectoral Sandpiper	20 (10,17,23)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2 (3,9)
* Dunlin	F 5 (10)	Glaucous Gull	6
Wilson's Snipe	73	Great Black-backed Gull	58
American Woodcock	28	unspecified gull	150
unspecified shorebird	1	Caspian Tern	69
Little Gull	6 (2,3,20)	Common Tern	143
Bonaparte's Gull	5208	<b>Forster's Tern</b>	1 (13)

**Pigeons - Swallows**

Rock Pigeon	1504	unspecified woodpecker	4
Mourning Dove	1607	Eastern Phoebe	284
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	* <b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	F 1 (1)
Great Horned Owl	11	* Blue-headed Vireo	F 1 (12)
Barred Owl	3 (18,19,28)	Blue Jay	876
Long-eared Owl	1 (3)	American Crow	3069
Short-eared Owl	1 (16)	Common Raven	11
Belted Kingfisher	83	Horned Lark	121
* Red-headed Woodpecker	1 (26)	* Purple Martin	F 12
Red-bellied Woodpecker	239	Tree Swallow	952
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	103	N. Rough-winged Swallow	56
Downy Woodpecker	376	Barn Swallow	64
Hairy Woodpecker	97	unspecified swallow	10
Northern Flicker	379		
Pileated Woodpecker	44		

**Tits - Waxwings**

Black-capped Chickadee	1416	Hermit Thrush	13
Tufted Titmouse	226	American Robin	8410
Red-breasted Nuthatch	55	Gray Catbird	1 (12)
White-breasted Nuthatch	211	Northern Mockingbird	33
Brown Creeper	112	* Brown Thrasher	F 2 (13,28)
Carolina Wren	19		
Winter Wren	24		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	446	European Starling	11286
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	31	American Pipit	2 (5,13)
Eastern Bluebird	224	Cedar Waxwing	236
		<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>	1 (13)

## Warblers – House Sparrows

Yellow-rumped Warbler	15		Northern Cardinal	1197
Pine Warbler	1	(18)	Red-winged Blackbird	8578
Eastern Towhee	14		Eastern Meadowlark	128
American Tree Sparrow	343		Rusty Blackbird	244
Chipping Sparrow	103		Common Grackle	5096
Field Sparrow	40		Brown-headed Cowbird	1012
* Vesper Sparrow	F	6 (3,5,18)	Purple Finch	113
Savannah Sparrow		125	House Finch	390
Fox Sparrow		32	Common Redpoll	129
Song Sparrow		2972	Pine Siskin	16
Swamp Sparrow		88	American Goldfinch	756
White-throated Sparrow		107	Evening Grosbeak	18 (13,28)
White-crowned Sparrow		15	House Sparrow	1530
Dark-eyed Junco		1628		
unspecified sparrow		4	unspecified birds	44

**SUMMARY INFORMATION:** Total species observed: 147  
Total individual birds observed: 141,178

**COMPARATIVE INFORMATION:** Associated charts, available from Holly Sweeney, compare this year's records with those for 2001-2010 and those for 1935-2010. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2011 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average of the previous 75 years):** Mute Swan, 37 (18.5x avg.); Eurasian Wigeon, 2(10xavg.) ; Turkey Vulture, 4607 (14.5x avg.); Cooper's Hawk, 73 (5.5x avg.); Golden Eagle, 2 (20x avg.); Glaucous Gull, 6 (6 x avg.); Forster's Tern, 1 (10x avg.); Northern Cardinal, 1197 (2.9x avg.)

**Lowest count since 1935 (average number seen during the previous 75 years):** none

**Rare count sightings:** First count record- **Bohemian Waxwing** ,1 - third count record- **Golden Eagle**, 2(previous sightings in 1970 and 2001) ; **Forster's Tern**, 1(previous sightings in 1994 and 2000); **Eastern Kingbird**, 1 (previous sightings in 1999 And 2009).

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2002:

**Highest count in past decade (x the average of the previous 10 years):** Mute Swan, 37 (3.7 x avg.); Eurasian Wigeon, 2(20x avg.); American Wigeon, 827(2.4 x avg.); American Black Duck, 101(2.4x avg.); Redhead, 305 (2x avg.); Red-breasted Merganser, 13052 (2.4x avg.); Turkey Vulture, 4607 (3.5x avg.); Cooper's Hawk, 73 (2 x avg.); Golden Eagle, 2 (10x avg.); Merlin, 6 (2x avg.); Dunlin, 5 (5x avg.); Glaucous Gull, 6 (6x avg.); Long-eared Owl, 1 (3.3x avg.); Bohemian Waxwing, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> count and decade record); American Tree Sparrow, 343 (2.2x avg.); Song Sparrow, 2972 (1.4x avg.); Northern Cardinal, 1197 (1.3x avg.); Common Redpoll, 129, (9.2x avg.).

**Lowest count in past decade (average number seen during the previous 10 years):** Mallard, 982 (1249); Greater Yellowlegs, 9 (46).

**Rare count sightings:** First decade records: Golden Eagle, 2; Long-eared Owl , 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 1- Second decade records: Eurasian Wigeon, 2; Forster's Tern, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 1- Third decade records: none.

### SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES:

This report continues a change instituted in the April 2008 count report for the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as has been done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species which are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

**INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the increase multiple between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2002-2011) except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Mute Swan (0/134); Wood Duck, 4.3x; Gadwall, 4.5x; Mallard, 1.5x; Northern Shoveler, 6.4x; Green-winged Teal, 2.4x; Ring-necked Duck, 2.4x; Bufflehead, 2.6x; Red-breasted Merganser, 3.1x; Ruddy Duck, 16.1x; Wild Turkey, 10.4x; Red-throated Loon, 70.5x; Common Loon, 6.9x; Double-crested Cormorant, 9703X; Great Blue Heron, 3.5x; Great Egret, 29.2x; Green Heron (0/14); Black-48 owned Night-Heron, 11.9x; Turkey Vulture, 15x; Osprey, 5.5x; Bald

Eagle, 39.2x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5.2x; Cooper's Hawk, 3.2x; Northern Goshawk, 8x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Merlin (0/25); Peregrine Falcon (0/20); Virginia Rail, 29x; Sora, 5x; Sandhill Crane, (0/14); Greater Yellowlegs, 3.3x; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3.7x; Little Gull, 8.3x; Bonaparte's Gull, 4.7x; Ring-billed Gull, 5.3x; Herring Gull, 2.2x; Iceland Gull, 7.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull (0/19); Glaucous Gull, 3.8x; Great Black-backed Gull, 14.9x; Caspian Tern, 658x; Rock Pigeon, 3.2x; Mourning Dove, 2.8x; Eastern Screech Owl, 2.3x; Barred Owl, 4.3x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 19.3x; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 8.9x; Pileated Woodpecker, 2.7x; Common Raven (0/166); Tree Swallow, 4.6x; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 111x; Barn Swallow, 6.3x; Tufted Titmouse, 10x; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2.2x; Brown Creeper, 1.6x; Carolina Wren, 6.5x; Winter Wren, 2.5x; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6.2x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.9x; Hermit Thrush, 6.7x; Gray Catbird, 2.8x; Northern Mockingbird, 7.9x; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 9.7x; Pine Warbler, 73x; Chipping Sparrow, 5.2x; Savannah Sparrow, 1.7x; Swamp Sparrow, 3x; White-throated Sparrow, 2.2x; Northern Cardinal, 1.9x; Purple Finch, 2.5x; House Finch (0/5484); American Goldfinch, 2.9x.

**DECREASES:**

*The numbers shown indicate the percentage decrease between the first decade (1966-1975) and the last (2002-2011):*

Snow Goose, 80%; Canada Goose, 66%; Tundra Swan, 75%; American Black Duck, 85%; Blue-winged Teal, 59%; Canvasback, 84%; Redhead, 52%; Greater Scaup, 87%; Common Goldeneye, 70%; Common Merganser, 78%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 86%; Ruffed Grouse, 45%; Killdeer, 40%; Snowy Owl, 100%; Long-eared Owl, 95%; Loggerhead Shrike, 100%; Horned Lark, 55%; American Robin, 24%; European Starling, 59%; American Tree Sparrow, 81%; Vesper Sparrow, 90%; Song Sparrow, 43%; Red-winged Blackbird 62%; Eastern Meadowlark, 81%; Common Grackle, 74%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 68%; Evening Grosbeak, 98%; House Sparrow, 68%.

**OBSERVERS** (Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

Section 1: Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker  
 Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Carol Horvat, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley, John Stevens  
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[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## July - September Calendar & Annoucements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**July 24: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, pass port card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Aug. 21: Sunday. Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count.** Coordinator Lynne Landon (745-9129 or [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu)). All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Aug. 28: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Sept. 11: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for mid-season migrants.** Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Alec Humann ([alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com) or cell 716-604-2971).

**Sept. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Sept. 24: Saturday: Joint BOS /Buffalo Audubon Field Trip. Buffalo Fall Migrants: Delaware Park & Forest Lawn Cemetery.** Meet at 8:00 AM on Lincoln Parkway, across from Albright-Knox Art Gallery, near the stairs to Hoyt (Delaware) Lake. After a circle through the thickets on the south side of the lake, we will drive over to Forest Lawn to see the birds there. In the days before, David will be monitoring the field trip area, and the WNY area in general, and if strong activities are elsewhere, we may visit other sites. Please call the Buffalo Audubon office, 1-585-457-3228, to register. Leader: David Gordon: 716-390-1429.

## NYSOA County Listing Project - Submit Your 2010 Life List Report

Do you keep track of your bird sightings? Since 1993, birders all over the state have enjoyed sharing and comparing their numbers by participating in the New York State Ornithological Association's (NYSOA's) County Listing project. If you haven't done so yet, join in! For added convenience, and to encourage participation, annual county list reports can now be submitted online (or a mail-in form can be downloaded and printed) at [www.nybirds.org/RecordsReporting.htm](http://www.nybirds.org/RecordsReporting.htm).

You can report your life list totals for NYS plus each county and each region where you've recorded bird sightings. Report on just one county, or every county you've ever birded in the state - the choice is yours. Results are published in NYSOA's newsletter, New York Birders and on the NYSOA website. The only requirement for participating is membership in NYSOA or one of its member clubs - that means all members of BOS can join in the fun! The deadline for submitting reports is AUGUST 31, 2011.

## Herons and Egrets with Green or Orange Wing Tags

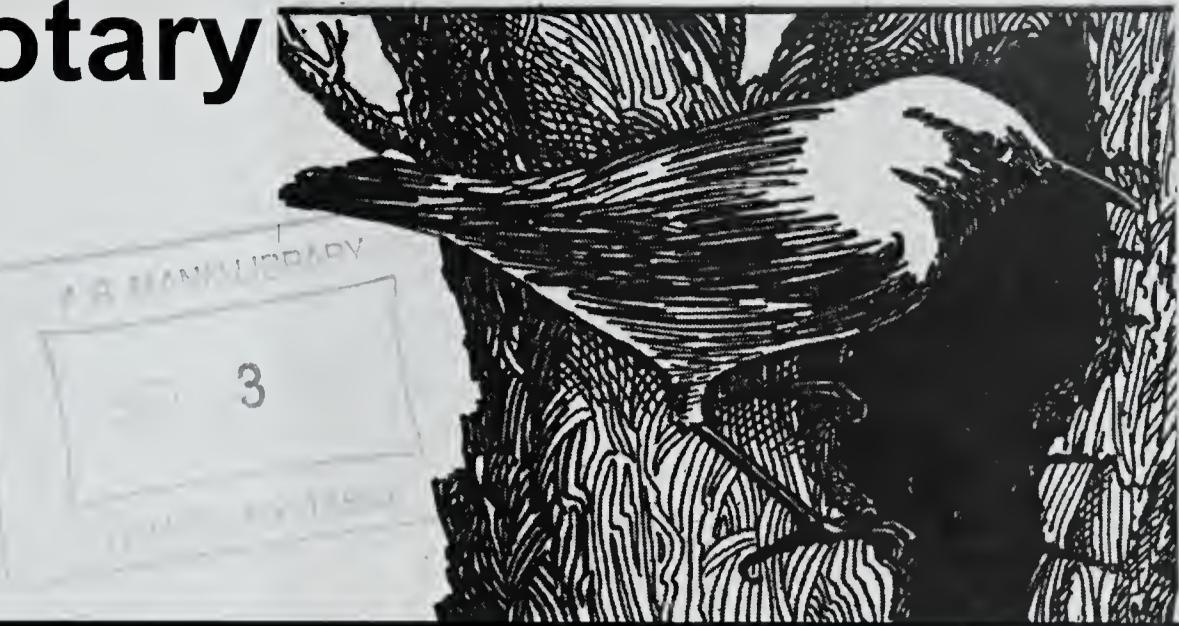
Fifty young Great Blue Herons and over 100 young Great Egrets from three sites in Lake Huron have been marked with Green or Orange wing-tags in the last month; each tag carries a unique number-letter combination. New York birders are asked to watch for these birds and send details of any sightings (date, time, location, observer, color of tag and number-letter combination) to [chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca](mailto:chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca) and/or [williamwatsonsr@aol.com](mailto:williamwatsonsr@aol.com). Also, please report any evening roosting sites and feeding aggregations of 6 or more birds.

# The Prothonotary

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2011

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 6 June 2011



### THE MONTH: May

Gerry Rising

It rained. That's pretty much it for the May weather summary. The temperature was near normal, the average temperature 58.7°F, 1.7° above the mean. The lowest temperature was 39° on the 5th, the highest 85° on the 13th with three more days in the 80s Memorial Day weekend. But it rained day after day: in fact, on 22 of the 31 days, achieving one of those historic records you would prefer to forget. The month's 8.09 inches was almost 5 inches above normal, beating the previous high set way back in 1892 by almost 3/4 inch. Over an inch fell on May 14, 15, 18 and 27. All this came after a very wet March and April, producing the wettest spring ever. I suppose the up side of this is the fact that all this precipitation did not come a few months earlier in the form of over a hundred inches of snow.

Wet, yes, but it was still May and, as usual, an interesting month for birding. Consider a few of the highlights.

A few birds usually seen in winter or at least earlier in the year lingered: Snow Goose, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Purple Sandpiper, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin were all recorded. Those ~ 'the species that make for those' amazing Big Day counts in May.

There was the usual small number of rare species (with their May dates): Eurasian Wigeon 7, that Harlequin Duck 12-20, Cattle Egret 30, Black Vulture 5, Sandhill Crane 1-2, Yellow-throated Warbler 10, and Kentucky Warbler 1,23.

But there were also a number of other records that struck me as worth noting. The increasing numbers of Mute Swans on Lake Ontario spell bad news for our marshes and those other species that dwell in them. 325

(upper) Cattle Egret photographed by Willie D'Anna in Hartland on May 30<sup>th</sup>, (middle) Red-headed Woodpecker photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Lakeside Cemetery in Hamburg on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and (lower) Wilson's Warbler photographed by Chris Newton at Tifft Nature Preserve on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



#### 51 The Month

*Gerry Rising*

#### 53 Noteworthy Records

*Bruce Chilton & Statisticians*

#### 59 B.O.S. May Count 2011

*Robert DeLeon*

#### 62 Calendar

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Corden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

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William Watson

	2	7	10	12	13	14	15	18	19	22	27
<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	1		1						1		
<u>Golden-winged Warbler</u>				1							1
<u>Tennessee Warbler</u>		1	1	6	4	3	3	6	15	3	6
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler</u>			1	1					1		
<u>Nashville Warbler</u>	1	2	15	8	3	2	2	3	4	2	2
<u>Northern Parula</u>	1		5	5	2	1		1	1		2
<u>Yellow Warbler</u>	1	1	6	8	5	5	2	5	4	2	16
<u>Chestnut-sided Warbler</u>		1	4	9	5	5	8	7	6	3	12
<u>Magnolia Warbler</u>	1		5	5	4	4	7	6	7	1	24
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>			2	8	3	4	1	1			1
<u>Black-thr. Blue Warbler</u>	1	2	8	5	3	1		1	1		12
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler</u>	10	1	20	10	7	5	14	10	9		
<u>Black-thr. Green Warbler</u>	1	3	15	6	3	2	3	3	6	1	13
<u>Blackburnian Warbler</u>	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	5	1	8
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler</u>						1					
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	2				1						1
<u>Prairie Warbler</u>		1									
<u>Palm Warbler</u>	3	1	7	4	2	2	2	1	2		
<u>Bay-breasted Warbler</u>				5	3	3	1	3	8	2	4
<u>Blackpoll Warbler</u>				1	1	2		1	3	2	13
<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>										1	
<u>Black-&amp;-white Warbler</u>	1		4	4	3	4	1	1	1	1	3
<u>American Redstart</u>			5	6	3	4	2	9	4	5	38
<u>Ovenbird</u>	1			4		1			2	1	2
<u>Northern Waterthrush</u>			3	1	1					1	1
<u>Mourning Warbler</u>						1	1			1	3
<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>				2	2					2	26
<u>Hooded Warbler</u>									1		
<u>Wilson's Warbler</u>					1	1	1		1		20
<u>Canada Warbler</u>					1	1		1	1		15
<b>Total Species:</b>	12	11	17	24	19	20	16	17	21	16	22
<b>Total Birds:</b>	24	15	104	104	57	53	52	60	83	29	223

Green-winged Teal in Elba on the 1st, but only a few Blue-winged Teal. Those amazing wastewater-loving Ruddy Ducks, 250 on the 4th, at the Batavia lagoons.

Bill Watson continues his careful counts of cormorants indicating well over 1000 in the region now. Fox's great shorebird counts in Elba on the 1st and 7th include over 150 yellowlegs on each day. Are Caspian Terns to take over the tern world as Ring-billed Gulls have the gull world? Over 400 of those big orange-bills were in this region on the 1st.

What seems to me the most unusual land bird record for this month is D'Anna and Potter's 12 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on the 27th.

But of course May is the month for warblers and this month Forest Lawn Cemetery seemed to be the best place to find them in good numbers. With the assistance of many birders, most coming from Peter Yoerg, I worked up the following spreadsheet. (Any inaccuracies are my responsibility but I believe that it reasonably represents the month's birding.) A number of things seem clear to me from the listing, among them:(1) totals were good all month, (2) although 30 species are represented, the number of individuals for many species on most days remains very small, mostly 1s and 2s, threateningly small numbers, (3) that end of the month bonanza suggests that many birders may consider the migration over too early, and best of all, (4) despite Mother Nature's worst, birders were not rained out this May.



Red-headed Woodpecker photographed by Greg Coniglio in Alden on May 24<sup>th</sup> and a Common Nighthawk photographed by Bill Watson at Morgan's Pt. on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	18L	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Mute Swan	6	3	Youngstown	Morgante
"	20	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Morgante
"	29	1	Golden Hill SP	Kauffman
Gadwall	3	6	Elba	Lazarczyk, Beattie
"	20	10	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Eurasian Wigeon	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox
American Wigeon	7	29	Tonawanda WMA	Fox
Am. Black Duck	28	5	Hartland	D'Anna
Blue-winged Teal	4	5	Tifft NP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	5	17	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Watson
"	26; 27	4; 6	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Lawrence
Northern Pintail	1, 7	125, 60	Elba	Fox
"	30	1	Hartland	Watson
Green-winged Teal	1	325	Elba	Fox
"	5	39	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	20, 30	1, 1	Hartland	D'Anna
Redhead	4	6	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	9	4	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	26	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
Ring-necked Duck	5	57	Alabama	Watson
Greater Scaup	10	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	20	2	Niagara Falls	Morgante
Lesser Scaup	4	35	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	4; 27	75; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
Harlequin Duck	<u>12.14.20</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Morgante
"	<u>17, 20</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna
"	<u>20</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
White-winged Scoter	20-22	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox, Lazarczyk, Newton
Long-tailed Duck	20	50	Porter to Olcott	Morgante
"	25L	2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Bufflehead	4, 10	50, 3	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	5	4	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Common Goldeneye	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	8	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	12-20	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Morgante et al
Hooded Merganser	21	1 ad + 6 yg	Hartland	Watson
Common Merganser	14	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	20	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	2	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Ruddy Duck	1	6	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	4; 26	250; 16	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
"	5	8	Alabama	Watson
Horned Grebe	22L	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox et al
D.-crested Cormorant	7	571+124 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	20	168 + 86 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	24	600	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Bittern	2; 7	2; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Morien; Horton
"	4; 8	2; 1	Tifft NP	J Landau; Newton et al
"	20; 29	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Yoerg
* Least Bittern	7F; 22	1; 2	Tifft NP	Mitchell; Morgante
"	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Morgante et al
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Hollister
Great Egret	4, 7	140, 53 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14 - 31	1 - 3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	19	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Carlson
"	20	12 + 4 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
* Cattle Egret	30	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Watson et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	40	Niagara Falls	Morien et al
"	20	61	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	5	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Osprey	1 - 28	2 ad + n	Tifft NP	Salembier, Watson
"	5	1 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	7	2 ad + n	Tonawanda	Watson
"	31	1 ad + n	Wheatfield	Watson
Bald Eagle	3; 8	1; 2	Elba	Beattie; Dart, Beattie
"	4	2 ad + n	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	14	1 imm	Gouinlock's Pond	Morgante
"	21	2	Alden	Mitchell
"	23, 29	2, 3 imm	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Merlin	2	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	18	1	Williamsville	Morgante
"	20	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna et al
Peregrine Falcon	12-20	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Morgante
Virginia Rail	14	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	19	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	20	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	30	2	Kiantone	Berry
"	30	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Sora	1; 8	1; 3	Tifft NP	Salembier; Morgante
"	7	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	20	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	26, 30	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Common Gallinule	5	9	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Watson
American Coot	5	69	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
Sandhill Crane	1	2	Alexander	Dart
"	2	1	Albion	Ewald
"	2	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Black-bellied Plover	17F; 20	2	Wilson	Muller; D'Anna
* Semipalmated Plover	1F; 11	1; 7	Elba	Fox; Mitchell
"	19	11	Hartland	Carlson, Daniels
Spotted Sandpiper	20	17	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Solitary Sandpiper	1	9	Elba	Fox
"	24L	1	Lancaster	Morgante, Rising et al
Greater Yellowlegs	1, 7	29, 30	Elba	Fox
"	5	6	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
Lesser Yellowlegs	1, 7	137, 125	Elba	Fox
"	5	12	Newstead	Watson, Schlacter
* Upland Sandpiper	6F; 30	1; 3	Tillman Road WMA	Chilton; Yoerg
"	12	1	Colden	K Landau
* Whimbrel	23F	3	Windmill Pt (Ont)	Jacklin
"	24	52	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
* Ruddy Turnstone	20F	1	Goat I.	Morgante et al
"	27	2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Bateman
* Semipalm. Sandpiper	14F	3	Crescent Beach (Ont)	Humann
"	24	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Hartland	D'Anna
* Least Sandpiper	1F	1	Carroll	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	7	Alexander	Fox
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	1	Carroll	Berry
"	7	4	Elba	Fox
"	7	6	Iroquois NWR	Fox
Purple Sandpiper	12	2	Goat I.	Morgante
Dunlin	1; 9	24; 12	Elba	Fox; Mitchell
"	7	25	Iroquois NWR	Fox
"	24	51	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
* Short-b. Dowitcher	18	23	Hartland	D'Anna
Wilson's Snipe	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Wilson's Phalarope	1, 7	1, 1	Elba	Fox
Bonaparte's Gull	25	40	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	25	40	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Yoerg
Lesser Black-b. Gull	5	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	7	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
Caspian Tern	1	220	Wilson Pier	Morien et al
"	1, 3	70, 60	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	1	128	Point Breeze	Fox
"	24	54	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Black Tern	1	1	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	5; 29	47; 4	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Yoerg
"	20; 26	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
Common Tern	1	101	Wilson Pier	Morien
"	4	350	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	26; 27	1; 3	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Lawrence
Forster's Tern	3; 26L	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Newton; Mitchell
* Black-billed Cuckoo	14F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	18	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	14F	1	Hinsdale	Reed
"	26	1	Alexander	Dart
"	30	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	31	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Long-eared Owl	1	1	Tifft NP	Newton, Salembier
"	13, 22	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox et al
Short-eared Owl	2; 13, 22	1; 1	Shelby	Morien; Fox et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	13	1	Tifft NP	J&K Landau
* Common Nighthawk	2F, 6, 22	1, 1, 1	Alfred	Peterson
"	13, 30	1, 1	N Buffalo	Yoerg
"	19	7	Lakeside Beach SP	Bateman
"	22, 28	1, 1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	22	4	Portland	Hardenburg
"	24	1	Morgan's Pt, (Ont)	Watson
"	26	22	Dunkirk	Sanden
"	27	1	Pt. Gratiot	Lazarczyk, Gula
"	29	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
* E. Whip-poor-will	19F	1 fem	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	1 - 31	1 m	Orchard Park (f)	M&W Zebehazy
"	4	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1 - 4	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	1 - 31	2 - 4	Hamburg	M Zebehazy
"	3	2	Emery Park	Newton
"	10	2	Como Park	Peterson
"	14	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
"	19	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Carlson, Daniels
"	24	1	Alden	Coniglio
"	24	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	25	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	29	1	Youngstown	Landon
Olive-s. Flycatcher	18	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	19	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	22	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	11F; 12	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Sharon
"	13	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Yellow-b. Flycatcher	22F	1	Delaware Park	Yoerg
"	23	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	25 - 28	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	27	<u>12</u>	Wilson and Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	3	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Ward	Brooks
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Acadian Flycatcher	19F; 29	1; 3	Iroquois NWR	Carlson et al; Salembier
"	30	1	Carroll	Berry
* Alder Flycatcher	14F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	19; 20	2; 3	Iroquois NWR	Carlson; Morgante et al
* Willow Flycatcher	9F	1	Carroll	Berry
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	2	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	2	1	Pt. Gratiot	Goetz
Yellow-thr. Vireo	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Warbling Vireo	1	1	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
* Philadelphia Vireo	12F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier, Yoerg
"	13	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	13	1	Amherst SP	Watson
"	28	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
* Red-eyed Vireo	1F	1	Wilson	Morien, D'Anna
"	10	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Common Raven	3	1	Basom	Morien
"	4	1	Eden	Andrle
"	20	1	Sardinia	Holmes
"	28	1	Conewango	Berry
"	29	2	Ward	Brooks
"	30	1	Alfred	Brooks
Purple Martin	9	1	Stow	Berry
Tree Swallow	4	<u>1125</u>	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bank Swallow	4	225	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	4	50	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	20	10 + 30 n	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	22	4 + 4 n	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	24	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	1	Jamestown	Berry
Carolina Wren	2	1	Goat I.	Morien
"	2 - 20	2 - 4	Amherst SP	Salembier; Watson
"	4	1	Alden	Mitchell
"	10	1	Eden	Andrle
"	24	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Winter Wren	6	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg
"	8	1	Ivory	Berry
"	21L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	29	4	Ward	Brooks
* Sedge Wren	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox et al
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18; 19	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Watson
* Veery	2F	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	12F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier, Yoerg
"	14; 28	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Sharon
"	22	3	Delaware Park	Yoerg
* Swainson's Thrush	5F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	8	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	1	Delaware Park	Yoerg
"	22	12	Tifft NP	Morgante
Northern Mockingbird	10	1	Grand I. BOS Sanctuary	Lazarczyk
"	13	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	2	Middlebury	Mitchell
American Pipit	20L	1	Wilson	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Golden-wing. Warbler	12F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Salembier
"	17	1 fem	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Bonenfant et al
"	27	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Tennessee Warbler	6F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Gordon, Rising
"	19	<u>17</u>	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
* Orange-cr. Warbler	6F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	8; 19	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton; Watson
"	11	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	13, 16	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
"	14	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
Nashville Warbler	27L	2	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	2	Andover	Brooks
Northern Parula	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	14	<u>8</u>	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	22L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Chestnut-s. Warbler	1	1	Tifft NP	Horton
"	2, 29	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
Magnolia Warbler	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	30	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Cape May Warbler	1F, 14	1, 4	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter et al
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	27L	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	1, 30	1, 1	Wilson	Potter et al
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	28	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Blackburnian Warbler	28L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	4	Ward	Brooks
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	10	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Pine Warbler	1	2	Wilson	Morien
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	6	3	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg
"	9, 15	1, 5	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	10	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
* Prairie Warbler	7F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Gordon
"	29	1	Carroll	Berry
"	30	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	31	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Palm Warbler	22L	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Bay-breasted Warbler	8F	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	9; 12	4; 5	Forest Lawn Cem.	Callaghan; Yoerg
"	22	<u>20</u>	Wilson & Porter	Potter, D'Anna
* Blackpoll Warbler	10F	1	Tifft NP	Gordon
"	12	1	Wilson	Potter
"	12, 13	1, 1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	30	8	Niagara Falls	O'Donnell
* Cerulean Warbler	5F	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	7	1	Sherman	Beebe
"	12	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn et al
"	28	3	Allegany SP	Baird
Black-&white Warbler	28	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
American Redstart	1	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Prothonotary Warbler	7, 20	1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox; Morgante et al
La. Waterthrush	3	1	Emery Park	Newton
"	11	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
<u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	1	1	St. Catharines (Ont)	Roy, Johnson et al
* Mourning Warbler	12F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	13, 30	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
* Wilson's Warbler	<u>2F</u>	1	Tifft NP	Newton
"	11	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	13	1	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
"	27	<u>20</u>	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	6	Tifft NP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Canada Warbler	7F	5	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	27	15	Wilson & Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	3	Ward	Brooks
"	30	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Yellow-br. Chat	9F – 15	1	Alden	Wolfling
"	13, 22	1	Iroquois NWR	Fox et al
"	14 – 31	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	20	1	Clymer	Taylor
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Lazarczyk
Vesper Sparrow	1	2	Carlton	Fox
Grasshopper Sparrow	12; 30	2; 4	Tillman Road WMA	Young; Yoerg
"	14	2	Middlebury	Morgante
"	14	1	Carlton Hill MUA	Morgante
"	20	1	Darien Lakes SP	Mitchell
"	20	2	Artpark	Morgante et al
"	28	1	Conewango	Berry
"	29	2	Pomfret	Mosher
Fox Sparrow	7L	1	North Clymer	Beebe
* Lincoln's Sparrow	6F; 12	1; 5	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton; Salembier et al
"	9	1	Cheney's Road Swamp	Berry
"	11; 22	3; 4	Tifft NP	Salembier; Morgante
"	16; 27L	5; 1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton; Potter, D'Anna
"	27L	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
White-thr. Sparrow	1	91	Tifft NP	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	11; 12	46; 44	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson
"	27	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
Dark-eyed Junco	16	1	Wilson	Potter
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Indigo Bunting	1	1	Orchard Park (f)	M&W Zebehazy
"	8	1	Kiantone	Berry
Rusty Blackbird	2	90	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	8, 9	5, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	9	1	Perrysburg	Lazarczyk
"	16L	5	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Newton
* Orchard Oriole	1F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	6	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	7	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Fox
"	8-12	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton et al
"	15, 19	1, 1	Wilson	Potter
"	17	4	Portland(f)	Hardenburg
"	20	1	Ransomville	Morgante
Baltimore Oriole	17	10	Alden (f)	Coniglio
Purple Finch	3, 4	6	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	5	Andover	Brooks
Common Redpoll	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	1	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	3L	1	Alfred	Peterson .
Pine Siskin	2, 16	3, 3	Marilla	Holmes
"	6, 20	60, 1	Wilson	Potter
"	9, 11	15, 10	Fredonia	Goetz
"	12	4	RT Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	12, 14	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	19	2	Youngstown (f)	Yonker

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

220

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month (including May Count):

040

Total for the year 2011:

260

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

# Report of the 2011 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 15, 2011

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

## Weather Synopsis

Unseasonably cold, windy and rainy with a total rainfall of 1.72 inches.

Sunrise: 5:53 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:32 PM EDT

TIME	VISIBILITY (mi)	TEMP (°F)	PRESSURE (inHg)	WIND DIR.	WIND SPEED (MPH)	PRECIP. (in. Rain)
12:00 am	10.0	55.4	29.62	NE	13.8	0.15
3:00 am	2.5	51.8	29.60	NE	12.7	0.15
6:00 am	2.5	48.9	29.62	NNE	15.0	0.07
9:00 am	3.0	46.9	29.65	NE	18.4	0.03
12:00 pm	1.5	46.0	29.68	NE	16.1	0.45
3:00 pm	3.0	43.0	29.67	NE	18.4	0.57
6:00 pm	8.0	43.0	29.70	NE	16.1	0.23
9:00 pm	4.0	42.1	29.75	NNE	15.0	0.07
12:00 am	2.5	43.0	29.75	NNE	11.5	0.00

Lake Erie water temperature: 46 °F

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

## Geese - Herons

Canada Goose	3077	Hooded Merganser	24
Mute Swan	15	Common Merganser	36
Tundra Swan	L 3 (3,10)	Red-breasted Merganser	894
Wood Duck	165	Ruddy Duck	30
Gadwall	4 (8,13)	Unspecified waterfowl	35
American Black Duck	2 (4,23)	Ring-necked Pheasant	11
Mallard	468	Ruffed Grouse	2 (19,28)
Blue-winged Teal	10 (7,10,13)	Wild Turkey	99
Northern Shoveler	7 (10,13)	Common Loon	8
Northern Pintail	2 (1)	Pied-billed Grebe	9
Green-winged Teal	2 (5)	Horned Grebe	2 (24)
Canvasback	L 6 (9)	Double-crested Cormorant	1447
Ring-necked Duck	5 (2,24)	American Bittern	1 (19)
Greater Scaup	10 (7)	Least Bittern	1 (4)
Lesser Scaup	34	Great Blue Heron	309
White-winged Scoter	6 (5)	Great Egret	76
Long-tailed Duck	281	Green Heron	39
Bufflehead	L 10 (2,9)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	94
Common Goldeneye	2 (1)		

## Vultures - Cranes

Turkey Vulture	98	Rough-legged Hawk	1 (22)
Osprey	20	American Kestrel	25
Bald Eagle	13	Merlin	1 (22)
Northern Harrier	1 (19)	Peregrine Falcon	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	Unspecified hawks	1
Cooper's Hawk	7	Virginia Rail	4 (5,23)
Red-shouldered Hawk	4 (17,19,26)	Sora	4 (10,23)
Broad-winged Hawk	10 (12,18,19)	Common Gallinule	4 (10)
Red-tailed Hawk	53	American Coot	4 (10,19,20)

**Plovers – Terns**

Semipalmated Plover	14	(4,8,17)	American Woodcock	4	(20,22,24)
Killdeer	178		Unspecified shorebirds	12	
Greater Yellowlegs	6	(4)	Bonaparte's Gull	112	
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	(4,10,12)	Ring-billed Gull	17483	
Solitary Sandpiper	7		Herring Gull	1127	
Spotted Sandpiper	37		Great Black-backed Gull	23	
Upland Sandpiper	1	(10)	Iceland Gull	L	1 (3)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	(2)	Unspecified gulls	4	
Least Sandpiper	77		Caspian Tern	91	
Dunlin	45	(7)	Common Tern	164	
Wilson's Snipe	2	(23)	Black Tern	5	(10)

**Pigeons - Swallows**

Rock Pigeon	579		Least Flycatcher	22	
Mourning Dove	785		Unspecified Empidonax	13	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	(4,24)	Eastern Phoebe	92	
Black-billed Cuckoo	6		Great-crested Flycatcher	68	
Great Horned Owl	5	(2,13,25)	Eastern Kingbird	147	
Barred Owl	2	(19,28)	Yellow-throated Vireo	8	(2,12,13)
Long-eared Owl	1	(14)	Blue-headed Vireo	10	
Chimney Swift	101		Warbling Vireo	80	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	211		Philadelphia Vireo	8	
Belted Kingfisher	52		Red-eyed Vireo	109	
Red-headed Woodpecker	12		Blue Jay	549	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	132		American Crow	1316	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31		Common Raven	14	
Downy Woodpecker	160		Horned Lark	85	
Hairy Woodpecker	61		Purple Martin	174	
Northern Flicker	178		Tree Swallow	3829	
Pileated Woodpecker	25		Bank Swallow	123	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*F	1 (2)	N. Rough-winged Swallow	286	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	28		Cliff Swallow	151	
Alder Flycatcher	1	(22)	Barn Swallow	3782	
Willow Flycatcher	15				

**Tits - Waxwings**

Black-capped Chickadee	611		Veery	80	
Tufted Titmouse	126		Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	(3,11)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	59		Swainson's Thrush	58	
White-breasted Nuthatch	130		Hermit Thrush	13	
Brown Creeper	13		Wood Thrush	139	
Carolina Wren	9		American Robin	3988	
House Wren	184		Gray Catbird	657	
Winter Wren	2	(8,18)	Northern Mockingbird	15	
Marsh Wren	3	(10)	Brown Thrasher	33	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	(2,3,18)	European Starling	5157	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	32		American Pipit	89	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	37		Cedar Waxwing	140	
Eastern Bluebird	153				

**Warblers**

Blue-winged Warbler	46		Palm Warbler	46	
Tennessee Warbler	97		Bay-breasted Warbler	38	
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	(2,4,8)	Blackpoll Warbler	20	
Nashville Warbler	46		Black-and-white Warbler	30	
Northern Parula	17		American Redstart	160	
Yellow Warbler	1012		Ovenbird	75	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	146		Northern Waterthrush	14	
Magnolia Warbler	141		Louisiana Waterthrush	2	(24)

Cape May Warbler	11	Mourning Warbler	2 (12,18)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	58	Common Yellowthroat	343
Yellow-rumped Warbler	320	Hooded Warbler	53
Black-throated Green Warbler	86	Wilson's Warbler	11
Blackburnian Warbler	75	Canada Warbler	13
Pine Warbler	20	Yellow-breasted Chat	1 (3)
Prairie Warbler	2 (17)	Unspecified warblers	13
<b>Tanagers – House Sparrows</b>			
Scarlet Tanager	41	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	468
Eastern Towhee	96	Indigo Bunting	44
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>	L 1 (4)	Bobolink	402
Chipping Sparrow	848	Red-winged Blackbird	3877
Field Sparrow	64	Eastern Meadowlark	65
Vesper Sparrow	2 (8)	Rusty Blackbird	10
Savannah Sparrow	128	Common Grackle	2254
Grasshopper Sparrow	7	Brown-headed Cowbird	506
Song Sparrow	860	Orchard Oriole	14
Lincoln's Sparrow	8	Baltimore Oriole	551
Swamp Sparrow	60	Purple Finch	153
White-throated Sparrow	108	House Finch	219
White-crowned Sparrow	519	Pine Siskin	43
Unspecified sparrows	5	American Goldfinch	1436
Dark-eyed Junco	164	Evening Grosbeak	L 8 (28)
Northern Cardinal	546	House Sparrow	980

**SUMMARY INFORMATION:** Total species observed: 198 (lowest since 1999)

Total individual birds observed: 69,283 (lowest since 1991)

Number of observers: 212

**COMMENTS:** The cold, rainy weather made the 2011 May count one of the worst in the last 20 years, featuring few high species counts and many low species counts. For example, of the 198 species 141 were observed in numbers below the average value for the years 1965-2011, while only 57 were above the average value.

**HIGH COUNTS FOR 2011 (COMPARED TO 1935-2011)**

No species recorded an all-time high count in 2011. However, Mute Swan 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> highest), Canvasback 6 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Great Egret 76 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Peregrine Falcon 7 (3<sup>rd</sup> highest), Tree Swallow 3829 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest) and Pine Warbler 20 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest) were all at least 2 standard deviations above their average count for 1965-2011.

**LOW COUNTS FOR 2011:**

The following species recorded their lowest count in the modern period of 1965-2011 and were at least 2 standard deviations below their average count for 1965-2011: Northern Harrier 1 (all time lowest ever 1935-2011), American Kestrel 25, Killdeer 178, House Wren 184, Ovenbird 75, Bobolink 402.

**NOTABLE RARE SIGHTINGS:** American Tree Sparrow (Section 4, verification report by Holly Sweeney), Iceland Gull (Section 3)

**OBSERVERS** (Section compilers are printed in bold face.):

**Section 1:** Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker

**Section 2:** Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Carol Horvat, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz

**Section 3:** Willie D'Anna, Michael Drahms, Patti Fischer, **David Gordon**, Betsy Potter, Nicholas Randell, Don Roberson, Kevin Wilson

**Section 4:** Corey Callaghan, Julie Eberhart, Neal Gordon, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

**Section 5:** Joseph Fell, Morgan Jones, James Rozanski, **Elizabeth Weiss**, Jocelyn Welton

**Section 7:** Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Mike Hamilton**, Keegan O'Neill, Margaret Wooster

**Section 8:** Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, **Mike Zebehazy**

**Section 9:** Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Christopher Hollister, Jerry Lazarezyk, Debra Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Cindy Voelker, Frank Voelker

**Section 10:** Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**

**Section 11:** Rose Antos, Valerie Antos, Debbie Eldridge, Laura Healy, Barbara Henderson, Alexis Lang, Marilyn O'Connell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Danielle Pecoraro, Chuck Rosenburg, Richard Salembier, Peter Yoerg

**Section 12:** Chris Akios, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Denise Goulding, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, **Mike Morgante**, Mark Nichter

**Section 13:** Doug Beattie, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Jenny Crane, Elaine Dart, Dwayne Fonda, Taler Fonda, Julia Garver, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jodi Laird, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Joseph Salvadore, Judy Spring, Paula Stone, Ginny Tiede

**Section 14:** Robert Andrle, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobbler, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glenna Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Barb Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan

**Section 15:** Edward Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov

**Section 16:** Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Francis Rew**, George Robbins

**Section 17:** Joe Mitchell

**Section 18:** Chris Betrus, **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Rick Thomas, Grace Vedder

**Section 19:** Russell Allen, Ron Andrews, Leora Arnold, Cliff Arthur, Betty Bledsoe, Kathy Curser, Betty Fegley, James Fegley, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Larry Mullen, Virginia Norton, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**

**Section 20:** William Baker, Alan Benton, Jim Bowser, Nan Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Paul Farver, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Phil Hanlon, Carol Hardenburg, Greg Harper, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Audrey Schafer, **Jeannie Smith**, Ted Taft

**Section 21:** Ranjit Laha, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 22:** Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Nancy Karp, Ranjit Laha, Susan Lawton, Ruth Lundin, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 23:** Ranjit Laha, Susan Lawton, Steve Maggio, Linda O'Brien, Bob Petrolino, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** Tim Baird

**Section 25:** Tim Baird, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James VanScyoc, Regina VanScyoc, Nora Wenke

**Section 26:** Russell Allen, Denton Willett

**Section 27:** Russell Allen, Alison Dickinson, Jackie Merrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Wilma Sanford

**Section 28:** Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Donald Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Luann Cornell, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Barbara Kubiak, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Ralph Peterson, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipal, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Maureen Soule, Tarah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Barbra Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Luo Wells, **Suzanne Wood**



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## August - October Calendar & Annoucements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Aug. 28: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license.

**Sept. 11: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for mid-season migrants.** Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Alec Humann ([alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com) or cell 716-604-2971).

**Sept. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories, disk, or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.

**Sept. 24: Saturday: Joint BOS /Buffalo Audubon Field Trip. Buffalo Fall Migrants: Delaware Park & Forest Lawn Cemetery.** Meet at 8:00 AM on Lincoln Parkway, across from Albright-Knox Art Gallery, near the stairs to Hoyt (Delaware) Lake. After a circle through the thickets on the south side of the lake, we will drive over to Forest Lawn to see the birds there. In the days before, David will be monitoring the field trip area, and the WNY area in general, and if strong activities are elsewhere, we may visit other sites. Please call the Buffalo Audubon office, 1-585-457-3228, to register. Leader: David Gordon: 716-390-1429.

**Oct. 9: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Oct. 12: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Holly Sweeny, our BOS April Count Complier, will discuss the results of the April Count. Buffalo Ornithological May Count Compiler, Dr. Robert DeLeon, will discuss the results of the May Count.

**Oct. 29: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

## Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip

Chris Newton

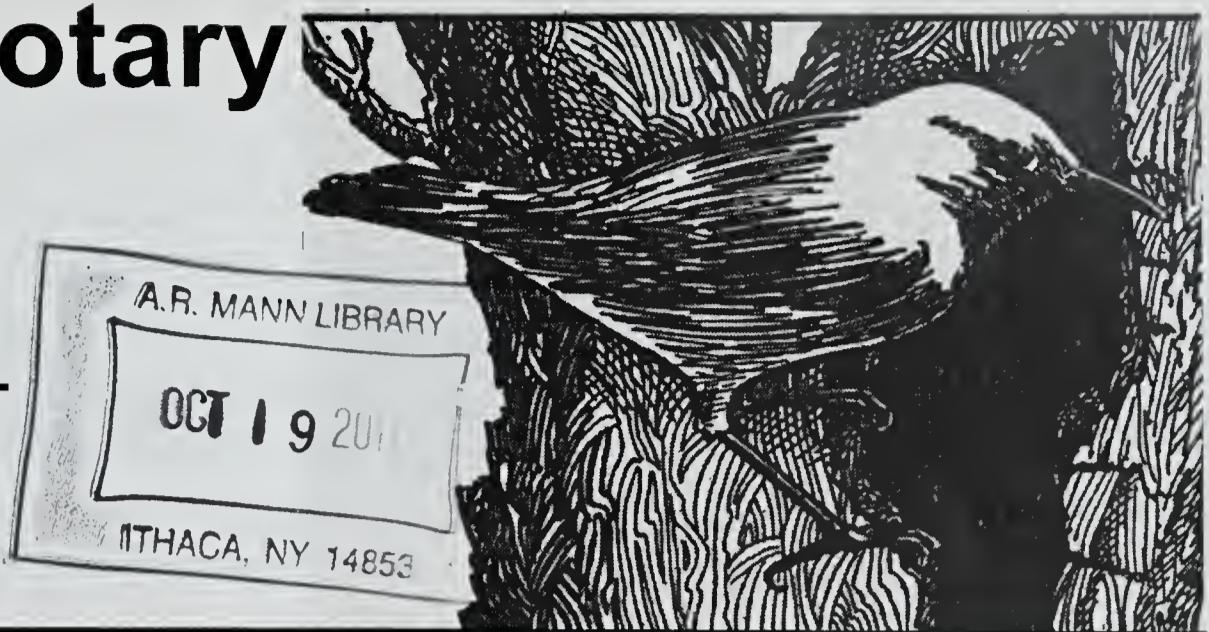
On a warmish May 8, 2011 morning, twenty faithful birders headed into Tifft Nature Preserve to search for spring migrants. Only a small number of warblers were seen but we still mustered up 10 species for the day and had a trip total of 65 species, beating out last years total of 62. We started off with a Common Loon on the main pond and a pair of Osprey that are now nesting there. Just past the upper parking area a Green Heron was building a nest in a small cluster of pines. At Heritage Boardwalk a booming American Bittern was heard, a Sora called from the marsh, and Swamp Sparrows sang. We then moved north towards Lisa Pond, picking up a few warblers (Yellow-rumped & Palm Warblers). A secretive Ovenbird called loudly as it flew by giving everyone a short glimpse. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were scattered about the paths. On arriving at Lisa Pond another American Bittern gave everyone good looks as it flew along the marsh and landed in an area where most could see it well. Not many waterfowl were present, but two male Wood Ducks and a male Blue-winged Teal were nice to see. We then circled around to check out Beth Pond and found three Bufflehead and a few Ringneck ducks. We headed back south and picked up a few more migrants, including Warbling Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green, Nashville, and numerous Yellow Warblers. We then headed for Mosquito Junction and Boardwalk Trail where a Marsh Wren sang from the top of a cattail and another warbler species was found, a Black-&-white Warbler. Getting some tips from fellow birders we headed towards Old Tifft Street, quickly adding a Blackburnian, and the warbler of the day, a male Cape May that eluded some but most got to see. In the same area, three Black-crowned Night-Herons perched for all to see and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak foraged in the tall trees. A fly-over Bobolink was nice. At this point we decided to visit the "mounds" area hoping for more Bobolinks. No luck on the Bobolinks but several Savannah Sparrows sang their "Ttt-savannah" song that was fitting for the grassy hills area. All in all it was a nice morning to bird with everyone and I certainly enjoyed seeing old faces and meeting new ones.

# The Prothonotary

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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 7 July 2011



### THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service characterized the month's weather as "a fine June for Buffalo and Western New York." The month averaged warmer and drier than normal along with abundant sunshine. The average temperature of 66.8°F was 1.0°F above the normal. There was no excessive heat or humidity and most days were quite comfortable.

Rainfall totaled 3.47 inches, 0.35 inch below the normal 3.82 inches for this month. Almost three inches of this total fell during heavy thunderstorms in a 48-hour period from June 22-24<sup>th</sup>. Some of the storms were violent and caused power outages due to the lightning strikes. The rest of the month was very dry with only 0.68 inch falling during the first twenty-one days. June was the first month since January with below normal precipitation.

As might be expected, sunshine was prevalent, shining 72% of the possible time. Lake Erie warmed steadily to 68°F at the end of the month, 1°F above the normal 67°F. Winds were moderate, though there were strong gusts on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of the month.

This month's highlights included sightings of two rare visitors – a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Blue Grosbeak. In our area, there have been fewer than five occurrences of each of these species recorded in BOS archives. On June 8, while driving along Weaver Road in Port Colborne, Ontario, in an area of mixed houses, fields and farms, Blayne Farnan "stopped on the roadway" when he saw a long-tailed bird that he instantly recognized as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a species that he had seen many times on his previous visits to Texas. He described the bird as overall gray, no wing bars, structurally similar to mockingbird, but longer. When chased off the wire by an Eastern Kingbird, he noted a salmon-pink color in the axillaries and clearly a long forked tail. The last previous area-sighting of this species was by Doug Happ in Hamburg in June of 2004.

York, Miley Miller spotted a Blue Grosbeak and drew the attention of Jim Berry and others at the Institute. Jim Berry provided verification of the sighting, noting the blue behind the head and on the rump, as well as the brown back and chestnut colored wing bars. He further noted that the lower mandible of the large beak was silver with the upper mandible darker than the lower. All of the markings distinguished the bird from the more likely Indigo Bunting. This is the first June sighting of this species in BOS archives. Each of the four previous reports were in May.



(Top) Clay-colored Sparrow photographed by Jim Berry in North Harmony on June 25<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Least Bittern nestlings photographed by John Masiewicz at Tifft Nature Preserve on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

63 The Month

Mike DeSha

65 Noteworthy Records

Bruce Chilton & Statisticians

68 Calendar

On June 2, viewing a feeding station on the grounds of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

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Holly Sweeney

William Watson

were no reports of Merlin anywhere in the area. Betsy Brooks spotted a Northern Goshawk on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Andover, Allegany County.

Little Gulls had shown up each June since 2006, but not this June. The gull highlights this month were Lesser Black-backed Gulls found by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at the piers in Wilson on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and at Olcott piers in the Town of Newfane on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

There were good numbers of terns seen this month. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, D'Anna observed 66 Caspian Terns in Wilson and Watson counted 250 Common Terns on the 20<sup>th</sup> in North Tonawanda. D'Anna reported finding 2 Forster's Terns in Wilson on the 20-21<sup>st</sup>. In his verification D'Anna noted the "strikingly white wings", thicker bill and longer tail streamers as compared to Common Tern.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, while leading Allegany Pilgrimage attendees on a bird walk at Red House Lake in Allegany State Park, Chuck Rosenburg and Tim Baird spotted and got the group onto a Yellow-throated Warbler. This marks the eighth consecutive year that a Yellow-throated Warbler has been found in this area since breeding individuals were discovered in the last years of the field work on the Second Breeding Bird Atlas.

There were more reports of several grassland

Other noteworthy sightings this June included records for some lingering species as well as uncommon numbers of more common birds. On June 26, Bill Watson reported 141 Wood Ducks at Oak Orchard WMA, on the 14<sup>th</sup> he found 750 Double-crested Cormorants at Rock Point Provincial Park, and on the 30<sup>th</sup> he spotted 4 adult and an amazing 55 young Black-crowned Night-Heron at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Watson's count of 72 Great Egrets Motor Island on the 20<sup>th</sup> is down from last year's count of 87.

In last June's monthly summary, I suggested that Merlins are becoming more adapted to urban living in the Southern Tier. This statement didn't hold this year. Peter Yoerg found two Peregrine Falcons in northeast Buffalo on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, but this June there

sparrow species this year than recent past years. Unfortunately, Henslow's Sparrows were not in the mix since none were seen. Clay-colored Sparrows were observed in several locations this month. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Yoerg found two in Ashford. Berry and Vanstrom found one in North Harmony on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Dart and Beattie reported finding four on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Yorkshire. Single Vesper Sparrows were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> in Newfane by Potter and D'Anna, on the 6<sup>th</sup> by Brooks in Andover, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> in Yorkshire by Hollister, Meier and Rising. Yoerg and Salembier reported finding three on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two on the 29<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Ashford. Salembier reported two Grasshopper Sparrows at Tillman Road WMA while Beattie found one in Bethany on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

While she was preparing dinner on June 7, Betsy Potter saw a very late White-crowned Sparrow in her yard. It later returned so Willie D'Anna could observe and obtain digiscoped photos. This is the second June record for White-crowned Sparrow, four days later than the June 3<sup>rd</sup> date that Watson saw this species in 2009.

Finally, a Pin-tailed Whydah, a spectacularly long-tailed African bird presumed to have escaped from captivity, established itself at a feeding station at a home in Ridgeway, Ontario, from June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, providing a great treat for those who had the opportunity to observe it.



(Top) A probable escaped Pin-tailed Whydah photographed by Daudelin in Ridgeway, Ontario on June 14<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Lesser Black-backed Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Wood Duck	26	141	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Gadwall	14	2	Dunnville (ONT)	Watson
"	15	5	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
American Wigeon	5, 26	2, 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	5	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Am. Black Duck	15	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	5	1 m + 1 f	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15; 26	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Watson
"	21	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	5, 26	1, 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Merganser	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	5	1	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	14	9	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	5, 26	34, 26	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Common Loon	26	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Pied-billed Grebe	12	3	Batavia WWTP	Hartquist
"	15	2 + 8 yg	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	26	13	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	14	750	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	14	288 + 86 n	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	30	194 + 145n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Least Bittern	5	1	Hartland	D'Anna
"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	11 - 19	1 - 2	Pomfret	Mosher, Goetz et al
"	13	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Great Egret	1 - 30	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	6	28 + 13 yg + 17n	Motor I.	Watson
"	8	35	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	20, 21	72, 56	Motor I.	Watson
"	21	24	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	30	3 + 2 n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	30	4 + 55 yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Osprey	10	4 + 1 yg + 2 n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	13	1 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	20	1 ad + n	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	26	2 ad + n	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2 ad + 1 yg	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	2 + 1 yg	Wheatfield	Watson
Bald Eagle	5	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	5	1 + 2 yg + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	26	1 + 2 yg + n	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Northern Goshawk	29	1	Andover	Brooks
Peregrine Falcon	23	2	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	1	Frewsburg	Berry
"	5	1	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	12	1	Batavia WWTP	Hartquist
Sora	25	1	Bethany	Beattie
American Coot	12; 26	15; 21	Iroquois NWR	Hartquist; Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
Upland Sandpiper	5	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
Semipalm. Sandpiper	5L	19	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	4, 20	4, 6	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>4, 14</u>	2, 1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5	1	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
Great Black-b. Gull	4	9	Wilson	D'Anna
"	12	5	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	21	2	Lackawanna	Yerkovich
Caspian Tern	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Hartquist
"	23	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Gula
"	24	66	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Tern	13; 26	17; 11	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Watson
"	21	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Common Tern	20	250	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	21	10	Wilson	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	<u>20, 21</u>	2	Wilson	D'Anna
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
"	19	1	Portland	Berry
"	27	1	Yorkshire	Lazarczyk
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	16	1	Wilson	Potter
"	19	1	Bush Hill S Forest	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Common Nighthawk	5	2	NE Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1 - 31	2 + n	Hamburg	M Zebehazy
"	4	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	29	1	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
Pileated Woodpecker	27	1	Ridgeway (Ont)	BonEnfant
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4L	1	Allegany SP	Baird et al
Acadian Flycatcher	4	1	Frewsburg	Berry
"	4; 26	1; 2	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Carroll	Morgante
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Morien et al
* <u>Scissor-t. Flycatcher</u>	8	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	15	1	South Stockton	Mosher
Common Raven	4	2	Frewsburg	Berry
"	7, 15, 29	2, 4, 2	Andover	Brooks
"	26	3	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Lark	24, 29	2	Bethany	Beattie
Purple Martin	19	1	Portland	Berry
"	29, 30	10, 36	Bethany	Beattie
Cliff Swallow	10	28 pairs	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	11, 15	2, 1	Andover	Brooks
"	17	2	UB north campus	Rising
"	19	1	Portland	Berry
"	26	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	30 ad+49 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	11	1	Hamburg	Hess
"	18	1	Ridgeway (Ont)	Salembier
Winter Wren	4	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	28	4	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	18	4	Ridgeway (Ont)	Salembier
Veery	21	30	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	4, 12; 26	1, 1; 2	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
"	7L	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Hermit Thrush	4	1	Frewsburg	Berry
Northern Mockingbird	10	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	14	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
Nashville Warbler	8, 10	1, 1	Andover	Brooks
Northern Parula	4 - 26	2 - 8	Allegany SP	Baird, Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	1	Yorkshire	Hollister, Meier, Rising

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Yellow-thr. Warbler	4	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Pine Warbler	4; 5	2; 2	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg
"	10	8	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	10 - 12	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	25	1	North Harmony	Berry
"	26	1	Frewsburg	Berry
Prairie Warbler	6, 11	3	Andover	Brooks
"	4, 10	2	Frewsburg	Berry, Morgante
"	10	3	Alfred	Brooks
"	19; 29	10; 9	Yorkshire	Yoerg; Salembier
"	20, 25	1, 1	North Harmony	Berry
Blackpoll Warbler	2	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4, 5L	1 m, 1 f	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Cerulean Warbler	4	3	Royalton	Salembier
"	5	2	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	5; 26	2; 7	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Carroll	Morgante, Morton
"	13	2	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Black-and-white Warb.	5	3	Allegheny Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	10	1	Carroll	Morgante
Prothonotary Warbler	13; 21	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Watson
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Welte
Northern Waterthrush	13	4	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
La. Waterthrush	4	1	Frewsburg	Berry
"	5	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	18	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	26	1	Yorkshire	Dart, Beattie
"	26	4	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Hooded Warbler	5	2	Thorold (ONT)	Johnston, Dix
Canada Warbler	20	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Clay-col. Sparrow	19	2	Ashford	Yoerg
"	25	1	<u>North Harmony</u>	Berry, Vanstrom
"	26	4	Yorkshire	Dart, Beattie
Vesper Sparrow	5	1	Newfane	Potter, D'Anna
"	6	1	Andover	Brooks
"	16	1	Yorkshire	Hollister, Meier, Rising
"	19; 29	3; 2	Ashford	Yoerg; Salembier
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	2	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
White-thr. Sparrow	12	3	Ward	Brooks
"	16 - 21	4, 8	Alfred	Brooks
White-cr. Sparrow	7L	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Dark-eyed Junco	4, 23	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Blue Grosbeak	2	1	RT Peterson Institute	Berry et al
Orchard Oriole	4, 12	1 ad m	Allegany SP	Baird
"	5	3	Porter & Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	7 - 23	1	Pomfret	Mosher, Lazarczyk et al
"	23 - 26	1	Hinsdale	Reed
Purple Finch	26	8	Yorkshire	Dart, Beattie
Pine Siskin	16, 17	1	Wilson (f)	Potter

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 260

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 003

Total for the year 2011: 263

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

### Exotics

Pin-tailed Whydah	14-19	1 escapee	Ridgeway (ONT)	Daudelin, Johnstone
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## September - October Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Sept. 24: Saturday: Joint BOS /Buffalo Audubon Field Trip.**

### Buffalo Fall Migrants: Delaware Park & Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Meet at 8:00 AM on Lincoln Parkway, across from Albright-Knox Art Gallery, near the stairs to Hoyt (Delaware) Lake. After a circle through the thickets on the south side of the lake, we will drive over to Forest Lawn to see the birds there. In the days before, David will be monitoring the field trip area, and the WNY area in general, and if strong activities are elsewhere, we may visit other sites. Please call the Buffalo Audubon office, 1-585-457-3228, to register. Leader: David Gordon: 716-390-1429.

**Oct. 9: Sunday. BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcia Jacklin; [mjackson@brocku.ca](mailto:mjackson@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. All BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Oct. 12: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Holly Sweeny, our BOS April Count Compiler, will discuss the results of the April Count. Buffalo Ornithological May Count Compiler, Dr. Robert DeLeon, will discuss the results of the May Count.

**Oct. 29: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com) ). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

**Nov. 9: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Worldwide Birder, Holly Sweeney will present the program: "The Birds of Thailand."

**Nov. 20: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association,** for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA leader Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) ).

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# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 8 August 2011



### THE MONTH: July

Liz Wells

The month was hot. July's temperature averaged 75.3°F, four and a half degrees above normal, making this month the third warmest July in 141 years, and warmest month overall in the last 56 years. Thirty days hit 80 or more, breaking the old record set in 1955, and a record for the most 80+ degree days of any month; the normal number is 18 days. The nights were warm and muggy with eleven nights over 70 degrees. Temperatures did not drop below 70 from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> temperatures hit 90 or above with the 22<sup>nd</sup> reaching 95, a new record for the day.

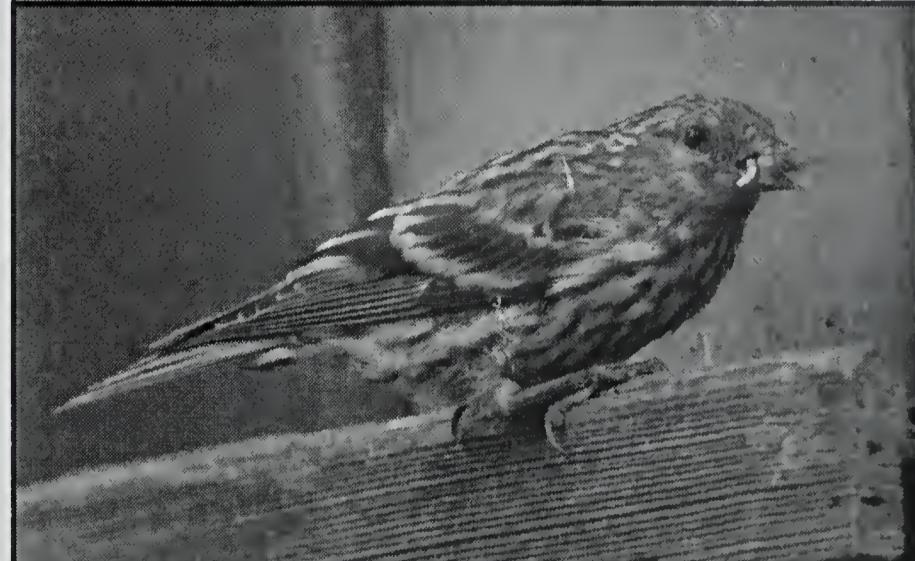
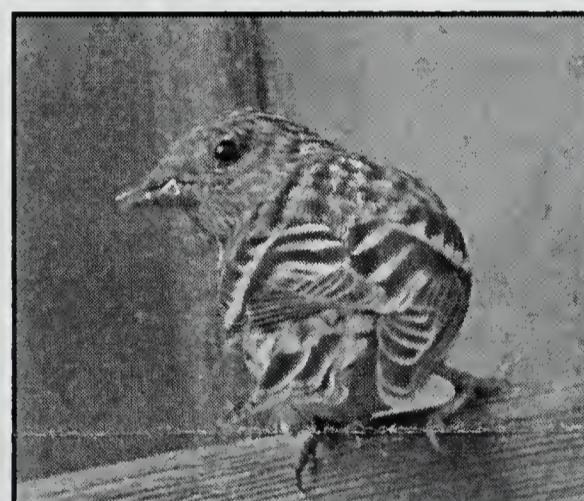
Rainfall was half an inch below normal, totaling 2.72 inches. 1.03 inches fell on the 6<sup>th</sup> when lake breeze convergence triggered heavy afternoon thunderstorms over Buffalo. Thunderstorms on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> brought 0.92 inches, measurable rain also fell on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. Winds were slightly below normal, a stiff breeze of 16.5 mph accompanied the 90+ degree temperatures on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Twenty-seven days had over 70% sunshine. Lake Erie reached 80 degrees, for the first time ever in July. This tied with August 14-16, 1988, as the warmest lake temperature in 85 years of record.

On July 8<sup>th</sup> Bill Watson reported a rare-in-July Little Gull, our smallest gull, amongst a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls resting on the chimney of the Coast Guard station at Fort Niagara (see photo). Bill noted that the bird was smaller overall than the Bonaparte's Gull, and had a relatively smaller head and thinner, shorter bill. The remnant of the black hood, a dusky dark crown, continued down the hind neck and extended beyond eye level. Neither Bonaparte's nor Black-headed Gulls hoods extend beyond eye level. The bird was in non-breeding plumage. June and July sightings of this species have become more common in recent years.

back and striped breast; with worn plumage, he felt this was an adult female. Jim Berry also reported a Merlin on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown. Most recent early July Merlin sightings occurred at University of Buffalo's South Campus, most notably, when up to three were seen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, by Peter Yoerg. Early July sightings suggest breeding birds.

Two noteworthy sightings this month involve juvenile birds. A juvenile Pine Siskin was seen at the feeders at Willie D'Anna's and Betsy Potter's property on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (see below). From Willie, "I was able to see a little yellow at the base of the tail but more importantly, one can see a fleshy gape in the photos, a clear indication that this is a fresh juvenile." This species is known to make long flights for food, leaving us only to wonder if it was locally raised or fledged from a distant hatching place. The last July reports of Pine Siskin were in 2009. Included in these was a report by Connie Adams



Pine Siskin (Juvenile) photographed by Willie D'Anna in Wilson on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

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Liz Wells

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Brendan Klick reported a Merlin on July 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, perched in a spruce at his parents' house in Snyder. Noting the bird's dark brown crown,

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

**Publishing:** Audrey Horbett

**Editorial Consultants:** Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

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William Watson

century in WNY. Several thousand were released locally from 1958 to 1960, but had little long-term impact on their population. Releases for hunting purposes continue. All sightings in recent decades can safely be assumed to be releases.

Trumpeter Swans were reported by Bill Watson on July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR and by Willie D'Anna on July 16<sup>th</sup> at Windmill Marsh, Oak Orchard WMA. Both birds exhibited the characteristic large black bills with sloping profile, distinguishing them from Tundra or Mute Swan.

There was an interesting tidbit in the reports. Joanne Goetz describes an Eastern Screech Owl she found in the village of Fredonia, "The fluffy owl appeared on the morning of July 14 perched on the back of a wicker chair right next to the front door on the homeowner's front porch. The owl stayed there all day and finally left at night. There are many trees in the neighborhood so I'm thinking it probably was in a nearby nest."

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

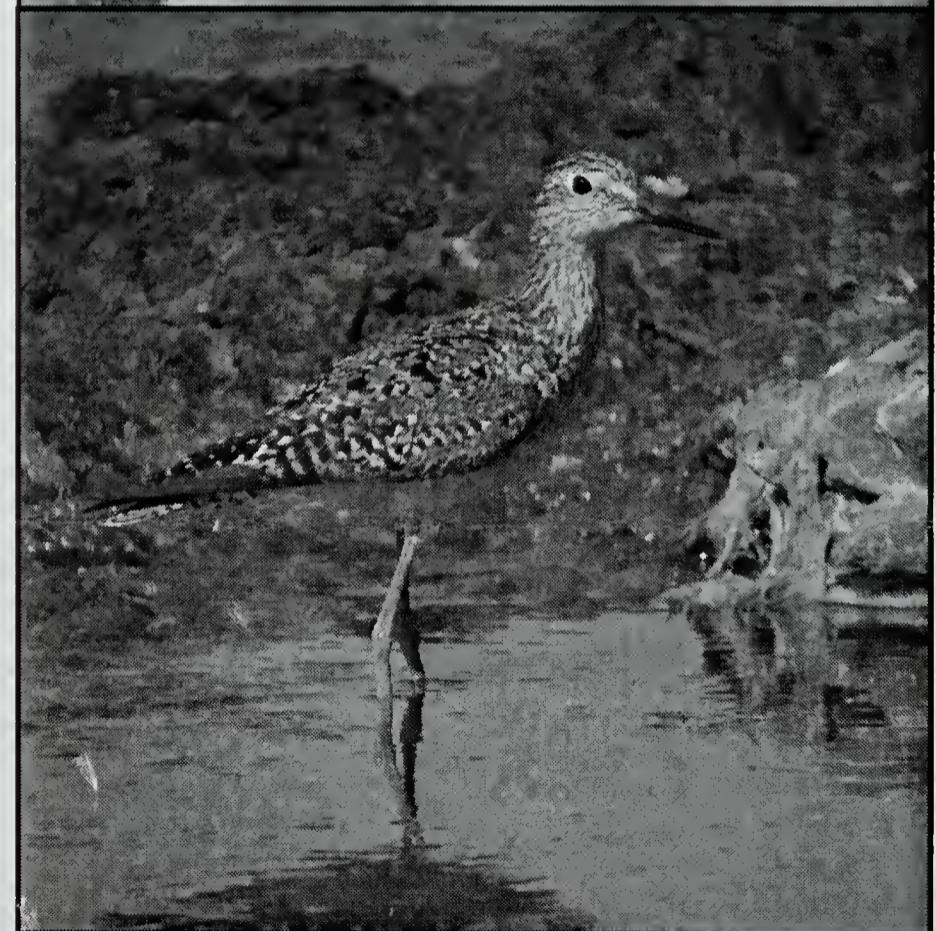
Happ D., D. DiTommaso, D. D. Suggs et al. BOS Noteworthy Data Base 1960-2009.

Thomas, D. U. S. National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, of two adults and a nest at Fort Niagara State Park.

Also on the D'Anna/Potter property in Wilson, a juvenile White-throated Sparrow was seen on July 28<sup>th</sup>. It was slightly larger, and similar in shape to a Song Sparrow. This species is rare in the southern tier during summer months and there are no records in the northern counties during July. Willie points out, "If this was a juvenile as it seemed, this would be remarkable as the species is not known to breed on the Lake Ontario plain anywhere nearby."

Doug Beattie reported a Northern Bobwhite on July 22 on Judge Road in the Tonawanda Indian Reservation. This is certainly a hunting release. Beardslee and Mitchell noted that the N. Bobwhite was in severe decline by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>



(Top) Little Gull photographed by Bill Watson at Fort Niagara on July 8<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) male Downy Woodpecker feeding a nestling photographed by Mike Zebehazy at his Orchard Park home on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Lesser Yellowlegs photographed by Willie D'Anna at Rock Point Provincial Park on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

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Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	17	7	Point Breeze	Barry, Wood, Guthrie
"	26	3	Mohawk I. (Ont)	D'Anna
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	10-31	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	16	1 ad	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna
Wood Duck	10	57	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Gadwall	10	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Wigeon	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	10; 24	4; 7	Batavia WWTP	Watson; D'Anna et al
Ring-necked Duck	10; 24	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; D'Anna et al
Lesser Scaup	2	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Common Merganser	6	1 fem + 11 yg	Allegany SP	Hess
Ruddy Duck	10; 17	23; 28	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Guthrie et al
Pied-billed Grebe	29	35	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
D.-crested Cormorant	7, 24	580, 700	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	14	194+147n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Least Bittern	1	1	Iroquois NWR	Sharon
"	29	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Great Egret	8, 11	51, 71	Motor I.	Watson
"	9 - 31	1 - 4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	13	2	Chautauqua Twp.	Berry
"	29	150	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
"	31	52	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Osprey	1, 4	1 + n, 2	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	2 - 9	1 +2n+yg	Allegany SP	Hess
"	19	4 +3 yg +3n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	19	3 + 5 yg + 2n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bald Eagle	10	1 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	10; 19	1 ad; 1 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Harrier	16	1	Andover	Brooks
"	26	1	Arkwright	Berry
Merlin	<u>6, 8</u>	1	Snyder	Klick
"	<u>21,23,27</u>	1	Jamestown	Berry
Peregrine Falcon	4	1	UB south campus	Salembier
"	7 - 30	1 - 2	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
Virginia Rail	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Semipalmated Plover	26; 31	3; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; D'Anna, Potter
Killdeer	19	62	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Spotted Sandpiper	10	33	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	2F, 15	1, 4	Sherman	Lenz
"	16	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	16; 26	4; 12	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna; Mitchell
"	31	1	Niag. Peninsula (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Greater Yellowlegs	20F; 29	1; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Hess
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	11	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	6	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24	7	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Happ, Watson (BOS)
Upland Sandpiper	1	7	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
* Sanderling	24F	8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Happ, Watson (BOS)
"	25, 26	1, 2	Wilson	D'Anna
Semipalm. Sandpiper	17F, 18	1, 3	Batavia WWTP	Guthrie et al; Mitchell
"	24	10	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	24	60	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Happ, Watson (BOS)
"	31	1	Kiantone	Berry
Least Sandpiper	2F	2	Sherman	Lenz
"	7	4	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson, Klicks
"	7	14	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Klicks
"	11	15	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	49	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	24	11	Kiantone	Berry
Pectoral Sandpiper	24F	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	24F	3	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	24F; 25	2; 4	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al; Mitchell
"	31	9	Niag. Peninsula (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Stilt Sandpiper	24F	1	Long Beach (Ont)	Happ, Watson et al (BOS)
"	29	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Wilson's Snipe	2, 15	2, 5	Sherman	Lenz
American Woodcock	9	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	8	116	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	25	2 (ad plum)	Wilson	D'Anna
Little Gull	8	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
Great Black-b. Gull	2	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	17	4	Point Breeze	Wood, Barry, Guthrie
Caspian Tern	17	23	Point Breeze	Wood, Barry, Guthrie
Black Tern	10; 29	18; 14	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Wasilco
"	12; 19	6; 9	Iroquois NWR	Beattie; Watson
Common Tern	14	86	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Barry, Guthrie, Wood
"	20	40	Pt. Breeze	Beattie
"	25, 26	70, 117	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24; 26	260; 70	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; D'Anna
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	1	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
"	15, 25	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Beattie
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	1	Bethany	Beattie
Common Nighthawk	3	1	Hinsdale	Lenz
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	10	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	1	Point Gratiot	Lenz
"	7	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Klicks
"	7	1	Squaw I.	Schelbe
"	31	2 + n	Canadaway Creek NS	Lubienecki
Acadian Flycatcher	2	1	Portland	Berry
"	2 - 9	4	Allegany SP	Hess
"	4	3	Hunters Creek Park	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	4	1	West Middlebury	Beattie, Gerace
Common Raven	1 - 17	1 - 4	Andover, Ward, Burns	Brooks
"	8	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Hess
Purple Martin	1 - 22	6 - 15	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	4	22	Bethany	Beattie, Gerace
"	28	50	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Cliff Swallow	4	1	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
"	8	12 ad + 15 n	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	9, 19	5, 3	Andover	Brooks
"	14	45 ad+52 n	North Tonawanda	Watson
Carolina Wren	4	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	18 - 28	1 - 4 & n	Eden	Andrle
"	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Winter Wren	2 - 9	4	Allegany SP	Hess
"	9	1	Bush Hill SF	Potter, D'Anna
"	10, 15	2, 2	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	23	1	Wilson	Potter
Swainson's Thrush	2 - 9	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	3	8	Allegany SP	Lenz
Hermit Thrush	4	4	Hunters Creek Park	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	2	Ward	Brooks
Wood Thrush	22	7	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	13, 17, 19	1, 1, 2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
Brown Thrasher	2	7	Ashford	Salembier
"	7	1	Squaw I.	Schelbe
Nashville Warbler	4	2	Andover	Brooks
Yellow-r. Warbler	9	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Pine Warbler	6	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	9	2	Bush Hill SF	D'Anna, Potter
Prairie Warbler	2	8	Yorkshire	Salembier
"	3, 18	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Waterthrush	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
La. Waterthrush	2 - 9	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	4	2	Hunters Creek Park	Yoerg, Henderson
Canada Warbler	3	3 + yg	Ward	Brooks
"	9	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Vesper Sparrow	2	5	Ashford	Salembier
"	24	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	1	8	Tillman Road WMA	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	3 - 30	1 - 5	Alfred & Ward	Brooks
"	9	1	Allenberg Bog	Gordon
"	28	1 juv.	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Orchard Oriole	3, 19, 21	1, 2, 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	7	1 ad + 1 juv	Portland	Mosher
Pine Siskin	11, 12, 14	1 juv	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 263

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 002

Total for the year 2011 (to date): 265

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Northern Bobwhite 22 1 (release) Tonawanda Ind. Res. Beattie





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## **November - December Calendar & Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

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**Nov. 20: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association**, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA leader Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) ).

**Dec. 17: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. ([bartlett@buffaloaudubon](mailto:bartlett@buffaloaudubon) or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

**Dec. 17: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (716-491-4408) or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 17: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or [vanscloy716@hughes.net](mailto:vanscloy716@hughes.net)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577).

**Dec. 18: Sun. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Selen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 27: Tues. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com)) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3

**Dec. 28: Wed. Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

**Dec. 31: Sat. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com))

**Jan. 1, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz, [goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, [jesmith@netsync.net](mailto:jesmith@netsync.net) or 716-672-2235.

**Jan 1: Sun. Port Colborne CBC.** Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and 58 at 8 AM. If McDonalds is closed, meet at the Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire plaza about .5 miles north of McDonald's on Highway 58. Compiler: Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com), [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796)

## **Submission Guidelines for Spring Residency**

*Karen Lee Lewis*

On behalf of *Dendroica kirtlandii* – Kirtland's Warbler – passerines in need of sanctuary. Currently overwintering in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos handling Fall migration overflow. Applicants will have at least 160 acres of *Pinus banksiana*. Jack Pine forest must be available for spring migration. Documented cowbirds in the vicinity are considered illegals; habitat manager must be able to handle evictions, have relocation plan in order. Will have blueberries in your understory. Ship sample. Send photos of young trees only (4-20 years). Aged Jack's need not apply. Repeat, Aged Jack's need not apply. Mandatory fungi check for sweet fern blister rust. Please include botanist's clearance. History of vertical orange cankers or *Scleroderris* will lead to evil Shakespearean citations. Knowledge of weeviling beneficial. Talent for drowning larvae in pitch viewed favorably. Consorting with Canadians who are involved with Hydro pole logging is expressly forbidden. Successful applicant will offer landscape biomass that burns, floods or can be thinned by wind. Preferred accommodation is a medley of ground cover duff: pine needle, bark strip, grass and vegetable fiber. Please supply translations of the following: chip chip chip too too weet weet, and flip-lip-lip-lip-tip-tip-CHIDIP. Confession of Pyrophobia will cause your application to be rejected. Applicants involved in seedling propagation will be short-listed. Committee work with relics or ghost species an unfortunate necessity. Forward your application to: 'Passerine Preservation' Program, New Providence, Bahamas

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# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 9 September 2011



### THE MONTH: August

Jim Pawlicki

Following a dry June and July, August brought much needed rain and continued warmth to the WNY region. Temperatures remained above average on 20 of the 31 days with a mean average temperature of 71.3°F, 1.7° above normal. Rainfall was evenly spread throughout the month with scattered thunderstorms dropping the majority of the month's total of 3.94 inches, 0.68 of an inch above normal. Monthly sunshine totaled an above average 72% with 11 days receiving greater than 90% of available sunshine. Overall, August of 2011 could be summarized as quiet and pleasant with plenty of sunshine and comfortable temperatures.

For the second consecutive August and following the first record of the species in the BOS Study Area in 2010, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was observed in the region. Initially discovered on the 24<sup>th</sup> by NYSDEC wildlife technician Matt King at Conewango Swamp Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Randolph, the sighting was confirmed and documented later that day by Joe Mitchell. Often associating with Mallards, this unmistakable southern "tree duck" showed nicely for several observers, and was last sighted on August 28<sup>th</sup> as reported online to the Geneseebirds listserve. Similar to last summer's observation, the sighting followed at least five other reports over the spring and summer months of presumably wild vagrant Black-bellied Whistling Ducks from the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and upper mid-West regions, including two observations from New Jersey, and single observations from New York (Orange County), Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Joining the Black-bellied Whistling Duck, another waterbird from the "deep south" was observed this month when four Wood Storks were discovered near the west shore of Chautauqua Lake in the Town of Chautauqua on



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck photographed by (top and middle) Bill Saleen in Conewango on August 25<sup>th</sup> and (bottom) Carolina Wren with nest and nestlings photographed by Bob Andrle in Eden on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

75	<b>The Month</b> Jim Pawlicki	August 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Found and documented by Gil and Jann Randall, the flock was observed circling overhead amongst a group of gulls and then briefly landing in trees before flying off to the
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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

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southwest. Having seen numerous Wood Storks in the southern US, the Randalls immediately recognized the species distinctive combination of "white body, white wings (top and bottom) with black flight feathers," "large size, heavy-headed, robust body," "outstretched legs and neck," and "dark down-curved bill." This represents only the second record of Wood Stork in the BOS Study Area with the first record pertaining to a flock of up to three individuals collectively observed by Andrle, Fornesses, and Bush et al in the Portville area near Olean on 11-24 August 1978.

Typical for August, shorebirds were observed on their southward migration through the region with at least 23 species noted during the month. Traditional sites such as the

north shore of Lake Erie in Ontario and Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant provided the majority of records, while low water levels and lack of vegetative cover were ideal for shorebirds at Kumph Marsh within Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Notable observations from Kumph Marsh included a lingering Wilson's Phalarope from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20th and a molting adult Long-billed Dowitcher on the 27th, the latter documented and photographed by Willie D'Anna (see below). The Long-billed Dowitcher is only the fourth record of the species in August with the majority of the region's fall records consisting of juveniles occurring from mid-September to late October when most Short-billed Dowitchers have already migrated south and east to the Atlantic coast. Other shorebird observations worthy of mention include a flock of six American Avocets at Woodlawn Beach State Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>, an Upland Sandpiper in-flight over Grand Island on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Whimbrels in Lowbanks and Dunnville, Ontario throughout the month.

Trumpeter Swan and Sandhill Crane, two large, charismatic species that continue to increase throughout the region were both observed late in the month at Iroquois NWR. Now regular during spring migration from March through May, Sandhill Cranes are less frequently observed during the remainder of the year with the pair observed by Bruce Chilton on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Kumph Marsh

marking only the fifth August record of Sandhill Crane in BOS archives. Although Trumpeter Swans have occurred within the BOS study area ten months out of the year, 35 of the region's 45 records to date have occurred over a five month span from September thru February. A single summering adult first found at Cayuga Pool in July lingered into August and was documented by Willie D'Anna on the 27<sup>th</sup>, representing only the third August record of Trumpeter Swan in the BOS archives.

Other notable observations from the month included an early arriving or summering Red-necked Grebe and White-throated Sparrow in Wilson on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively, a large movement of 642 Purple Martins over Grand Island on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and a rare fall migrant Cerulean Warbler at Amherst State Park on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

I would like to thank Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, and Bill Watson for their comments and suggestions.

**Literature cited:**

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2008

Thomas, D. Weather Summary for August 2011. Buffalo National Weather Service: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

Birdingonthe.net mailing list archives found at: <http://birdingonthe.net/mailinglists/holzmanarchives.html>



(Top) Long-billed Dowitcher and (Bottom) Trumpeter Swan photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

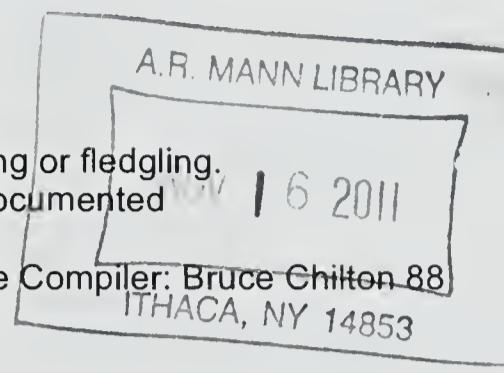
\* = First record for the year.  
F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88  
Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)



<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	14, 26	2, 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	2	Golden Hill SP	Sly
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	27	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
* <u>Black-b. Whistling-D.</u>	24	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Mitchell
"	25	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Seleen; Watson; Lazarczyk
"	26	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Roy et al
Wood Duck	9	123	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14	147	N. Harmony	Lenz
"	16, 23, 30	99, 163, 94	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Gadwall	23	8	Batavia WWTP	Fox
American Wigeon	20	5	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
American Black Duck	14	4	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	16	7	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Mallard	28	300	Iroquois NWR	Sly
Blue-winged Teal	10	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19; 30	5; 4	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Morien
Northern Shoveler	9; 10	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	20; 30	3; 4	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al; Morien
Northern Pintail	25; 30	2; 74	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter; Morien
Green-winged Teal	10; 23	6; 34	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	16, 23, 30	44, 34, 62	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	7	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	9-28	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
Common Merganser	1, 17	15, 14	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	28	3	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson, Happ et al (BOS)
Ruddy Duck	10; 28	68; 43	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Pied-billed Grebe	16, 23	28, 27	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	2	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson
Red-necked Grebe	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	20; 25	1; 2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Sherony
* <u>Wood Stork</u>	3	4	Mayville	G. Randell, J. Randell
D.-crested Cormorant	1	297	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	3	565	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	16	231	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	16	350	Donnelly's Pier	Watson
"	16, 28	900, 400	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	12; 23	4; 1	Iroquois NWR	Young; Morien
"	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Least Bittern	3	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Frisch
Great Egret	1	4+12yg+4n	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	17; 23	139; 108	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	31	11	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Dart, Mason
"	1 - 31	1 - 7	BOS study area	9 other reports
Green Heron	21	9	Tifft NP	Salembier
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1, 17	11, 7	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16, 21	2, 3	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
Turkey Vulture	31	18	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
Osprey	1	2 + 2 yg	Wheatfield	Watson
"	2	1 + 3 yg	Tonawanda	Watson
"	10	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	25	2 + n	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson
"	30	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	18 - 31	1	BOS territory	5 other reports
Bald Eagle	16	4 imm	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	22	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	22	1 imm	Sheridan	Watson
Northern Harrier	17; 30	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	29	1	Shelby	Morien
Merlin	6	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	10	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
"	24	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Mitchell
"	30; 31	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie et al
"	30	1	Niagara Falls	Sly
Peregrine Falcon	14	1	Grand Island	Fell
"	17	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Virginia Rail	9	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	25; 27	1; 1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson; Berry
Sora	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Sherony
Common Gallinule	16, 23, 30	14, 30, 49	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	21	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	25	2 imm	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson
Sandhill Crane	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Chilton
Black-bellied Plover	14; 26	40; 53	Lowbanks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	16, 21	50, 27	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Frisch
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Semipalmated Plover	20	7	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	20	5	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	26; 28	6; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson
Killdeer	14	108	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	100	Lowbanks (Ont)	Yoerg
* American Avocet	30	6	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell et al
Spotted Sandpiper	14	38	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Solitary Sandpiper	20; 30	5; 5	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Morien
"	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	29	2	Randolph	Mitchell
Lesser Yellowlegs	16; 19	54; 50	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Mitchell
Upland Sandpiper	6	1	Grand I.	Humann
Whimbrel	14	1	Lowbanks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16, 21; 28	1; 1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson; Happ (BOS)
Ruddy Turnstone	14	1	Lowbanks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
"	28; 30	8; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
"	28	1	Olcott	Sly
"	28	1	Wilson Harbor	Sly
"	31	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Yoerg
Sanderling	11; 28	5; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Watson et al
"	14	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	18	Wilson Harbor	Sly
"	30	11	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell et al
"	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	31	10	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	16 - 31	2 - 4	BOS study area	6 other reports
Semipalm. Sandpiper	14; 16	55; 22	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson
"	14; 16	50; 37	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson
"	7 - 31	4 - 15	BOS study area	4 other records
Least Sandpiper	7; 30	35; 15	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Morien

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14	23	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16	12	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	28	26	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* White-r. Sandpiper	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Baird's Sandpiper	21	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson
"	25	1	Batavia WWTP	Sherony
"	26	8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Port Maitland (Ont)	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	7, 20; 3	3, 10; 3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Morien
"	11	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Stilt Sandpiper	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
Short-b. Dowitcher	16	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	27; 31	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Beattie et al
"	28; 30	3; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Mitchell
* Long-b. Dowitcher	27	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Wilson's Snipe	17; 20	11; 18	Iroquois NWR	Beattie; D'Anna et al
Wilson's Phalarope	16 - 20	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Lazarczyk et al
Bonaparte's Gull	14	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Lesser Black-b. Gull	28	1	Olcott	Sly
Caspian Tern	16	17	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	16	13	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	22	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Black Tern	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25; 28	1; 6	Batavia WWTP	Sherony; Fox
Common Tern	26; 28	250; 2000	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Happ et al (BOS)
Forster's Tern	26	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Common Nighthawk	16F	2	Clarence	Morgante
"	16F - 31	1 - 3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	30	1	Alden	Mitchell
Red-headed Wdpkr.	14	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	9	Pt. Gratiot	Lenz
"	26	1 ad + 1 yg	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
Olive-s. Flycatcher	28F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Eastern Wood-Pewee	27	12	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	28	3	Poland	Berry
"	28 - 30	3	Bethany	Beattie
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	28F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	31	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Willow Flycatcher	21	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
Least Flycatcher	27	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	29	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	28F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	28F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	29, 31	2, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	13, 20	2, 2	Ward	Brooks
Purple Martin	6	5	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	26	64	Niagara Falls	Sly
"	30	<u>642</u>	Grand I.	Humann
Tree Swallow	20	75	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	23; 28	373; 750	Batavia WWTP	Fox
N. Rough-w. Swallow	9	125	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bank Swallow	14	400	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	17	550	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	750	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	25	1	Conewango Swp. WMA	Watson, Sundell
Barn Swallow	9	400	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	14	500	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Carolina Wren	11	n + 5 yg	Eden	Blasz, Andrle
"	14, 29	1, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16, 21	1, 1	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Watson
"	22	1	Point Gratiot	Watson
"	26	1	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Winter Wren	7	1	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Veery	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	21	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	3	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	18	1	Cambria	Morien
Blue-winged Warbler	26, 29	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Tennessee Warbler	31F	1	Wilson	Potter
Nashville Warbler	28F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	31	1	Wilson	Potter
Northern Parula	29F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Chestnut-s. Warbler	25F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	2	Goat I.	Watson
"	27	5	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
Magnolia Warbler	22F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	2	Goat I.	Watson
Cape May Warbler	26F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	28	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26F	1	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	12F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	16; 28	2; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Watson et al
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	25F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Blackburnian Warbler	26F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26F	2	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Pine Warbler	26F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	26F; 28	2; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg: Watson et al
Prairie Warbler	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bay-breasted Warbler	21F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	26	1	Goat I.	Watson
Blackpoll Warbler	27F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	28	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Cerulean Warbler	31	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Black-&-white Warb.	16F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	17	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Goat I.	Watson
American Redstart	17	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26F	1	Goat I.	Watson
Ovenbird	26F	1	Goat I.	Watson
Hooded Warbler	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	26F	2	Wilson	Potter
"	26F, 29	1, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	14F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	22	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Goat I.	Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	23	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Dark-eyed Junco	9, 13	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Scarlet Tanager	31	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Bobolink	26	35	Alexander	Dart
Baltimore Oriole	1 - 30	5 - 10	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded: 265  
 New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 006  
 Total for the year 2011 (to date): 271

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

**Buffalo Ornithological Society**  
**Shorebird Count**  
**August 21, 2011**

**Weather Synopsis**

The morning of the count was characterized by numerous thunderstorms along the North Shore of Lake Erie. These storms were in advance of a cold front that passed through the count area in late afternoon. Southerly winds were calm to light for most of the day.

**Greater Buffalo International Airport**  
 Sunrise: 6:28 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:09 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	70°F	61°F	29.89 in Hg	SW5	
3:00 am	Thunderstorms	70	61	29.88	Calm	
6:00 am	Thunderstorms	67	64	29.88	SE10	
9:00 am	Thunderstorms	67	65	29.86	S6	
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	66	64	29.08	SW11	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	71	67	29.78	S8	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	64	59	29.81	NW10G23	Cold Front Passage
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	62	59	29.85	S6	
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	60	55	28.85	SW6	

Species	Reach 1	Reach 2	Reach 3	Reach 4	Reach 5	Reach 6	Reach 7	Reach 8	Reach 9	Reach 10	Total
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	0	28	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	4	37
Killdeer	5	0	2	1	1	0	3	6	2	3	23
Greater Yellowlegs	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Solitary Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	12	16	2	5	7	4	6	13	0	3	68
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	8	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	107	124
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	7	5	1	0	4	3	1	0	0	1	22
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	4
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	31	58	6	13	23	7	11	19	2	135	305

Participants: Reach 1: Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Chris Yonker, Terry Yonker; Reach 2: **Doug Happ**, Mike Zebehazy; Reach 3: **John Black**, Victor Friesen; Reach 4: **John Black**, Victor Friesen; Reach 5: Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Kayo Roy**; Reach 6: Bob DeLeon, **Donna DeLeon**; Reach 7: Bob DeLeon, **Donna DeLeon**, Vicky Rothman, **Bill Watson** (this reach was split, and covered by the counters in the neighboring reaches) Reach 8: Vicky Rothman, **Bill Watson**; Reaches 9 & 10: Mike Galas, Ron Hacker, Chris Hollister, Scott Meier, **Gerry Rising**, Cindy Voelker, Frank Voelker.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## November - January Calendar & Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Nov. 20: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association**, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA leader Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) ).

**Dec. 14: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have the election of officers for 2012.

**Dec. 17: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. ([bartlett@buffaloaudubon](mailto:bartlett@buffaloaudubon) or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

**Dec. 17: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (716-491-4408) or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 17: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or [vanscoy716@hughes.net](mailto:vanscoy716@hughes.net)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577).

**Dec. 18: Sun. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 27: Tues. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com)) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3

**Dec. 28: Wed. Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

**Dec. 31: Sat. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com))

**Jan. 1, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz, [goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, [jesmith@netsync.net](mailto:jesmith@netsync.net) or 716-672-2235.

**Jan 1: Sun. Port Colborne CBC.** Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and 58 at 8 AM. If McDonalds is closed, meet at the Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire plaza about .5 miles north of McDonald's on Highway 58. Compiler: Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com), [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796)

**Jan. 11: Wed. BOS Meeting** at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the **Buffalo Museum of Science**. Tim DePriest, Habitat Ecologist for NYDEC, will present "Improving the Habitat Along the Niagara River for Ospreys, Terns, and other Wildlife."

**Jan. 1/15 (Sunday): January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is from Jan. 14-22. However, counters are urged to use the target date of **Sunday, Jan. 15 if at all possible**, weather permitting. Contact the Compiler for info: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)

## International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference - 2012

*Bill Watson*

The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research will be held May 13-17, 2012 in Cornwall, Ontario to explore the theme, *From Great Lakes Flow Mighty Rivers*. Chip Weseloh and Lee Harper, with The International Association for Great Lakes Research, are soliciting meeting contributors in three primary research areas: colonial birds, waterfowl, and marsh birds. They are also seeking a meeting co-chair, preferably a contributor in one of the latter two areas. A member(s) of the BOS is being requested to present some of our society's data, such as BOS Waterfowl Counts, month Counts, BOS database, Niagara River as an IBA (mostly because of large waterfowl and gull populations),.... etc pertinent to the meeting. BOS data will be made available to any person interested in presenting. Contacts below. Bill Watson, [WilliamWatsonSr@aol.com](mailto:WilliamWatsonSr@aol.com); Chip Weseloh, [Chip.Weseloh@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Chip.Weseloh@ec.gc.ca); Lee Harper, [lharper1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lharper1@twcny.rr.com).

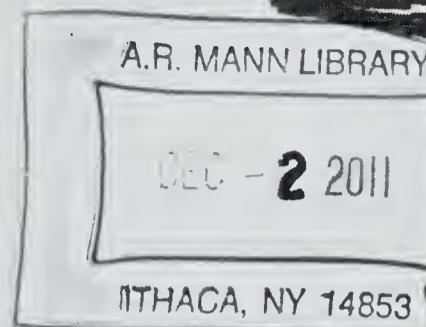


Red-necked Grebe photographed by Willie D'Anna on Lake Ontario at Wilson on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

# The Prothonotary

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2011

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 77, No. 10 October 2011

### THE MONTH: September

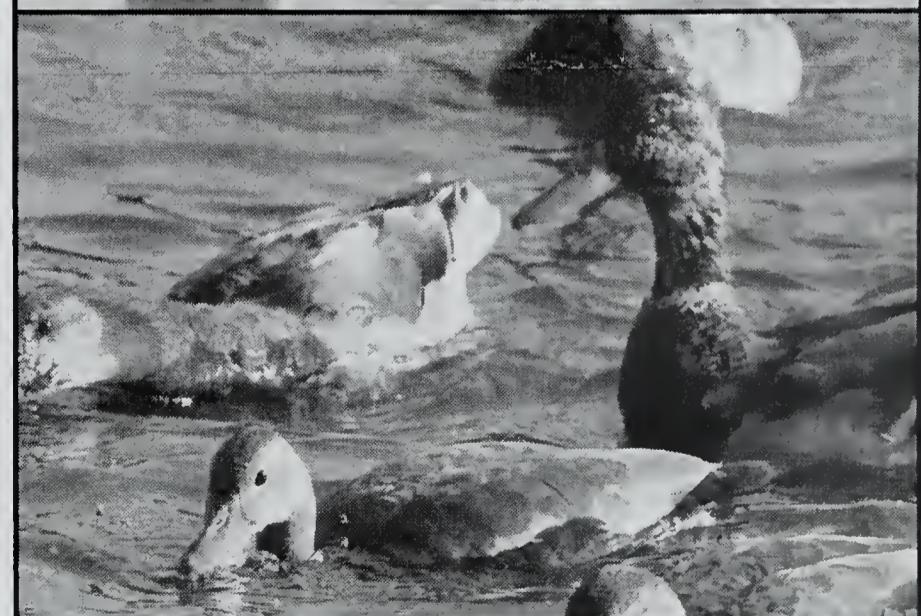
Tim Baird

The Buffalo weather data from the National Weather Service for September 2011 reflect a fairly pleasant month. The 65.5 °F temperature average was 3.3 degrees above the average. Precipitation was slightly above normal. The total rainfall was 4.07 inches topping the average by 0.17 inches. No days were completely clear, 22 days were partly cloudy, and 8 days were cloudy.

Seven species requiring verifications for dates or rarity are included in the Noteworthy Records. A quite early Tundra Swan was found at Attica by Markel on the 17<sup>th</sup> and continued through the end of September. Though written details were not submitted, photos show clearly a swan with distinct yellow lores. While driving in the Town of Busti, Berry encountered a swan on the 25<sup>th</sup> that he initially thought was a Trumpeter Swan because of the early date. Stopping to get a better look and take several good photographs, Berry determined that this was a Tundra Swan. The swan was accommodating and allowed Berry a long observation at a relatively close distance. It is interesting that this bird showed white in the lores as opposed to the expected yellow.

Watson verified two observations of Trumpeter Swans, one at Iroquois NWR and another at Oak Orchard NWR. His verification of these birds included nicely detailed descriptions of the definitive bill shape, the V-shaped border where the bill meets the feathers of the forehead, and the all black bill color.

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was once again encountered in the southern tier, this time at Stow on Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua County. It is not too much of a stretch to speculate this was the same bird verified and photographed at the Conewango Wildlife Management Area in Cattaraugus County in August of this year. Nice photographs of the Stow sighting were



(Top) An early Tundra Swan photographed by Jim Berry in the Town of Busti on September 25<sup>th</sup>; the bird shows white, rather than yellow, in the lobe and (Bottom) Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, with Mallards, photographed by Brant Gamma at Stow on Chautauqua Lake on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

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supplied by Gamma. Berry followed up his observation on the 24<sup>th</sup> with a verification report on this distinctive duck.

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Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

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NWR by D'Anna and others. D'Anna's report included information comparing the Western Sandpiper to nearby 'peeps'. He was able to use a noticeably longer and slightly drooping bill to help distinguish the Western Sandpiper from associated Semipalmated Sandpipers. D'Anna had the opportunity to have a direct comparison with a White-rumped Sandpiper to note the "noticeably smaller size" of the Western Sandpiper.

Readers can glean from the Noteworthy Records the species of interest to them. The writer is always interested in the wood warbler results. This September's list is a good representation of species expected for western New York at this season; highlights include the Connecticut Warbler reported by Salembier from Amherst State Park on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Sharon's Golden-winged Warbler viewed on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Tifft Nature Preserve. These two species are rarely observed, the one (Connecticut) by its very secretive nature during migration, and the other (Golden-winged) by virtue of its precipitous decline in our area. Pawlicki's encounter with 35 Blackpoll Warblers at Golden Hill State Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> is certainly noteworthy.

The American Ornithologist's Union has made some major taxonomic revisions, most notably within the wood warbler family, the *Parulidae*. As genetic relationships become more clarified through DNA analysis, the newly acquired information dictates a change in taxonomic

noting the extended neck that helps to separate cranes from herons in flight and a hint of red on the crown as observed through binoculars.

Two species of shorebirds that require careful observation were reported this month with verifications from the observers.

Pawlicki reported two juvenile Long-billed Dowitchers at Iroquois NWR on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Always a challenge to separate this rarity from the very similar Short-billed Dowitcher, Pawlicki was able to use his extensive experience with the species and careful observation to identify these birds. A Western Sandpiper, one of the 'peeps' that require careful notation of subtle characteristics to separate into distinct species, was found by Mitchell and observed on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Iroquois

relatedness of species. Somewhat like a person finding they have new cousins that they were unaware of and others who are not really first cousins after all. And to add a little extra confusion, their surname has been changed. Of course the birds are not affected by such actions, but some birders might be. Those of us who are looking back on many years of enjoying birds might be a little chagrined by the changes. Nostalgia is bitter sweet. So long *Dendroica*!

My thanks are extended to Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising for reviewing this article.

## Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip - Sept. 11

Alec Humann

A beautiful autumn morning greeted 21 participants for what turned out to be a great day of birding despite the general lack of Neotropical migrants. As the group amassed in the parking lot, we enjoyed the Tifft-produced juvenile Osprey dining on what looked to be a large goldfish/koi. One of the adult birds looked on from a nearby Cottonwood as the young bird called noisily.

The group started off to the south end of the preserve in hopes of crossing paths with a feeding flock. We eventually found one near Warbler Walk! The birds were few and only gave quick glimpses, but we were able to identify seven species of warblers, including a cooperative Wilson's Warbler and an American Redstart. An Eastern Wood-Pewee called from the Black Willows, and a Veery did a great job at eluding some of us here as well. Before seeing the warblers, we came across a Great Horned Owl sitting about 15 feet off the ground on Snakeroot Trail. We backed away to not flush the bird and had incredible scope views! What a treat!

The marshes were productive and offered great views of many Green Herons – one of which performed right in front of the group for some time as it chased minnows, frogs, and insects. At the start of the Heritage Boardwalk, we found two obliging Virginia Rails and most of the group got to see them through the scope! Several Common Gallinules, Great Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons also livened up the marshes. We spent some time picking through the mostly eclipsed-plumaged waterfowl and added Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Hooded Merganser among the many Wood Ducks. As the group paused on top of the raised platform along Mosquito Junction, a juvenile male Merlin called out as it landed in a dead tree. Again, the bird was very cooperative, and we enjoyed leisurely scope views. The bird even waited for latecomers who joined the group around ten.

We ended the day with 50 species of birds as well as enjoying a milkweed patch loaded with Monarch caterpillars! I had a fantastic time seeing old friends and making new. Thank you to all who came out and helped make the day a memorable one!

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1	3	Conewango Swp WMA	Peterson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	6, 16, 21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	6	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Tundra Swan	<u>17 - 30</u>	1	Attica	Markel
"	<u>25</u>	1	Busti	Berry
<u>Black-b. Whistling-D.</u>	19-25	1	Stow	Gamma, Landon
"	24	1	Stow	Berry
Wood Duck	11	127	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	28	233	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Gadwall	5; 20	6; 6	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Morien
"	6; 28	4; 10	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Steuer
American Wigeon	20, 24	145, 60	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	21; 25	48; 41	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
American Black Duck	6; 25	5; 16	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Blue-winged Teal	5; 28	75; 37	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Morien
"	21	35	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
Northern Shoveler	6; 25	106; 125	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	7	16	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Pintail	5, 7	10, 12	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	21; 25	11; 33	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Green-winged Teal	6	38	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	11; 18	52; 30	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Beattie
Redhead	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Fox
Ring-necked Duck	6, 21	4, 11	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Merganser	10	113	Windmill Point (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Red-br. Merganser	10	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	6, 21	66, 79	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Wild Turkey	18	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Pied-billed Grebe	7, 15	17, 27	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Eared Grebe	6; 7; 18	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Yoerg; Beattie
D.-crested Cormorant	2	788	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	4	630	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	28	55	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	29	120	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	29	280	Donnelly's Pier	Watson
American Bittern	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
Great Egret	16; 24	228; 188	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien, Watson
"	16	2	Prendergast Pt.	Lazarczyk, Beebe
"	29	20	Tifft NP	Salembier
Green Heron	6, 21	11, 8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	4; 6	4; 2	Iroquois NWR	Fell; Carlson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	20	2	Niagara Falls (NY)	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	6, 16; 20	1 ad, 1 ad; 3	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	18	1 imm	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Cooper's Hawk	10	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Bonenfant
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	1	Ward	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	2	5	Ashford	J. Rosenburg
"	9	1	Bennington	Horton
"	25	1	Alfred	Brooks
Merlin	1	2	Conewango Swp WMA	Peterson
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	10	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn et al
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Humann, Watson et al
"	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Fell
"	29	1	NE Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	12	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
"	27; 30	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Mitchell
Sora	5; 20	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; Morien
"	12	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Common Gallinule	3	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	7, 20, 28	17, 43, 31	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Coot	7; 16	19; 14	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
Sandhill Crane	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Black-bellied Plover	3	59	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3; 24	4; 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Pawlicki
"	4	27	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	6; 25	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Carlson; Fox
"	10	25	Moulton (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
* Amer. Golden-Plover	2F; 14	4; 15	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Beattie
"	3	2	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	18	Porter	D'Anna
"	8	34	Gasline (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
Killdeer	10	100	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Greater Yellowlegs	6; 24	5; 9	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
Lesser Yellowlegs	10; 14	22; 20	Iroquois NWR	Beattie; Morien
"	6, 21	14, 14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Turnstone	4-11	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox, Watson et al
"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
* Red Knot	3F	2	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3-18	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; D'Anna, Potter
"	4	6	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Monette
"	8	5	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Black et al
Sanderling	3; 4	34; 14	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg et al; Watson
"	9	81	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	11	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Watson
* Western Sandpiper	13, 14	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al, Mitchell
White-r. Sandpiper	3; 8	5; 16	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Yoerg; Farnans, Black
"	5; 15, 28	3; 2, 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter; Morien
"	8	10	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	9	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Baird's Sandpiper	3; 8	1; 1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Yoerg; B&J Farnan et al
"	5; 9	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter; Mitchell
"	6; 8	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Carlson; Mitchell
"	8	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	5; 14; 16	6; 7; 9	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Beattie; Watson
Stilt Sandpiper	9; 21	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Watson
* Buff-br. Sandpiper	3	2	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5, 8	2, 1	Gasline (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	4-8; 12	2; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox et al; Beattie
"	5-18	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter; Morien
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Wilson's Snipe	10; 14	40; 14	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Beattie
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	17	1	Goat I.	D'Anna
"	20	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Caspian Tern	6	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	6; 9	3; 4	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	23; 30	4; 32	Beaver I. SP	Hess; Sharon
Forster's Tern	10	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	D'Anna et al
* Parasitic Jaeger	29F	2	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	24	1	Delaware Park	Pawlicki, Gordon et al
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Potter, D'Anna
Common Nighthawk	3	4	Clarence	Morgante
"	3; 7	7; 1	Niagara Falls	Sly; D'Anna
"	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	16	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	3	St. Catharines (Ont)	Morgante
"	25	8	Williamsville	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	29	1	Depew	Morgante
Red-headed Wdpkr.	9	1 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	15	2	Como Park CP	Mitchell
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	16, 28	1, 7	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Olive-s. Flycatcher	5	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	25L	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	14	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	16	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	14, 19, 27	2, 1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	5	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	7, 27, 28L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	9	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Least Flycatcher	5	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	7	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	8, 14	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24L	2	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Gordon
Eastern Kingbird	3	3	Clarence	Morgante
"	4	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	14	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19L	1	Wilson	Potter
Blue-headed Vireo	16	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	16, 25	1, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
Warbling Vireo	26	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	26, 27L	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	6	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	16	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	16 - 30	1 - 3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	17	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Potter
Common Raven	9, 10, 18	2, 2, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Purple Martin	3	2	Clarence	Morgante
"	11L	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Tree Swallow	6; 18	65; 65	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	20	800	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Bank Swallow	11L	25	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Cliff Swallow	4	26	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11L	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Barn Swallow	18; 21	100; 30	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Watson
Red-br. Nuthatch	18	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
Brown Creeper	17F	1	Goat I.	Potter, D'Anna
Carolina Wren	1 - 30	1 - 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	4	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	10	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Winter Wren	10F	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	19, 27	1, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Hollister; Watson
Marsh Wren	28	3	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	29	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
Golden-cr. Kinglet	27F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	27F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	7F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Young
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	10	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Veery	6; 11	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Watson et al
"	6, 13, 20	31, 9, 4	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	7, 8	3, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	20	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Gray-cheeked Thrush	6F, 13, 20	4, 1, 2	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	8, 28, 30	1, 1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	14	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier
"	19	1	Wilson	Potter
"	24	1	Delaware Park	Pawlicki, Gordon et al
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Swainson's Thrush	1, 20, 28	1, 4, 8	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	6, 13, 27	27, 13, 5	Tonawanda (night)	Hess
"	10	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Hermit Thrush	26F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Wood Thrush	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	8	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Northern Mockingbird	21	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Brown Thrasher	7	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	11	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	11	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	23, 25	1, 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Gordon
"	26	1	Amherst	Rising
"	28	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
American Pipit	11F	1	Gasline (Ont)	Seburn, B&J Farnan et al
"	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Carlson
"	25	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Blue-winged Warbler	8	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	8	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Golden-wing. Warbler	8	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Tennessee Warbler	5	3	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Yoerg
"	30	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	16F; 29	1; 1	Tifft NP	Rising et al; Salembier
"	25	2	Attica	Beattie
"	28	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
Northern Parula	16, 27	3, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow Warbler	10L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Potter, D'Anna
Chestnut-s. Warbler	7, 30	5, 2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Cape May Warbler	5	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	20	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Potter
Yellow-r. Warbler	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	31	Tifft NP	Watson
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	7, 30	7, 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	2	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Blackburnian Warbler	19	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	7, 20, 21	1, 1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Palm Warbler	3	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg et al
"	25	5	Attica	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bay-breasted Warbler	7, 30	8, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	7	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	35	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki
Black-&-white Warb.	7	5	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Ovenbird	23	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	24	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Gordon
Northern Waterthrush	19	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Connecticut Warbler	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	3, 7	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	25	2	Attica	Beattie
Hooded Warbler	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Wilson's Warbler	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
Canada Warbler	7	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	24	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Pawlicki, Gordon et al
Eastern Towhee	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Potter, D'Anna
Lincoln's Sparrow	18F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Yoerg
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	30	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	10	6 band	Alfred	Brooks
"	29	2	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes
"	29	8	Tifft NP	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	26F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	27	2	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki
Dark-eyed Junco	13	1	Wilson	Potter
Scarlet Tanager	29	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Rose-br. Grosbeak	27	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	3	Tifft NP	Watson, Mark
Indigo Bunting	6	15	Elba	Dart, Beattie
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Bobolink	5; 12	10; 6	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; D'Anna
"	6	8	Elba	Dart, Beattie
Brown-head. Cowbird	25; 29	240; 130	Tonawanda	Hess; Watson
Baltimore Oriole	3	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8L	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Purple Finch	27	1	Wilson	Potter

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

271

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month:

006

Total for the year 2011 (to date):

277

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



Tundra Swan photographed by Markel at Attica on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## December - January Calendar & Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Dec. 14: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also have the election of officers for 2012.

**Dec. 17: Sat. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Chuck Bartlett. (bartlett@buffaloaudubon or 716-754-7414) or call Jackie at Beaver Meadow (585-457-3228)

**Dec. 17: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (716-491-4408) or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 17: Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716-925-7109 or [vanscloy716@hughes.net](mailto:vanscloy716@hughes.net)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Christmas Count.** Compiler: David Gordon (716-390-1429, [dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com)).

**Dec. 18: Sun. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577).

**Dec. 18: Sun. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 27: Tues. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com)) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3

**Dec. 28: Wed. Oak Orchard Count.** Compiler: Celeste Morien ([tcmorien@gmail.com](mailto:tcmorien@gmail.com)) 585-721-8202.

**Dec. 31: Sat. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com))

**Jan. 1, Sun. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz, [goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627 and Jeanine Smith, [jesmith@netsync.net](mailto:jesmith@netsync.net) or 716-672-2235.

**Jan 1: Sun. Port Colborne CBC.** Meet at McDonald's restaurant in Port Colborne at the corner of Highway 3 and 58 at 8 AM. If McDonalds is closed, meet at the Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire plaza about .5 miles north of McDonald's on Highway 58. Compiler: Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com), [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com), home phone- 716-668-0759, Cell Phone- 586-441-8796)

**Jan. 11: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Tim DePriest, Habitat Ecologist for NYDEC, will present "Improving the Habitat Along the Niagara River for Ospreys, Terns, and other Wildlife."

**Jan. 1/15 (Sunday): January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is from Jan. 14-22. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 15 if at all possible, weather permitting. Contact the Compiler for info: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)

## Niagara Birds Oversubscribed Kayo Roy and John Black

We are happy and excited to announce that in less than one year from publication date, our book *NIAGARA BIRDS* is now completely SOLD OUT. Our print run was two thousand copies and after donating some two hundred books to Niagara area high schools, libraries, the thirteen municipalities, our contributors and other worthy organizations, the remainder were sold to the general public. We have decided that there will not be a second printing of this Niagara Regional bird guide.

The excess after all expenses from this not-for-profit venture resulted in a gain of \$15,450.00. This amount was donated to the Trustees of Brock University as an endowment in perpetuity and designed to provide support annually to a student in Biological Sciences. Christine Jones, Director, Alumni Relations, is pictured below receiving our cheque for this endowment to be known as the NIAGARA BIRDS BURSARY.

We wish to extend our appreciation to the Buffalo Ornithological Society for their generous contribution to the publication of *NIAGARA BIRDS*.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank BOS members Robert Andrle, Drew Campbell, Bob DeLeon, Michael Hamilton, Michael Morgante and David Suggs for their individual contributions to the content of our book. We are deeply indebted and grateful to BOS member Gerry Rising for his incredible review of *NIAGARA BIRDS* that appeared in the Buffalo News.

Many BOS members purchased a copy of *NIAGARA BIRDS*. Thank you one and all for helping make this such a successful venture.



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# The Prothonotary

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ITHACA, NY 14853

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 11 November 2011

### THE MONTH: October

Bill Watson

**The Weather:** The month's mean temperature was 52.2 °F (1.4 above normal). On the 10<sup>th</sup> the temperature reached 80 °F. Total precipitation was 5.21 inches, 1.69 above normal. There was no measurable snow recorded, with only a trace at the Buffalo Airport on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The strongest winds were between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of the month and reached gusts of 50 mph from the west-southwest bringing in both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers to LaSalle Park and an early Black-headed Gull to Squaw Island in Buffalo. October had 40% of the possible sunshine, 10% below the normal (normal = 1971-2000 average).

**Early arrivals:** October brought very early records for Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Northern Gannet, Black-headed Gull, and Brant. The first three are exceptional records in October, Black-headed Gull is always very rare, and Brant is fairly common, but only in the latter half of the month. On the October 9<sup>th</sup> Count, Kim Sucy found five Greater White-fronted Geese in Oakfield at the Gypsum Pond on Hutton Road. A Greater White-fronted Goose, found on the 12<sup>th</sup> by Nick Sly at Forestall Flats, north of Oak Orchard Ridge Road at Iroquois NWR, with three Cackling Geese, is now our second earliest ever fall migrant. Klick and Rosche observed the prior early record of Greater White-fronted Goose at Iroquois NWR on October 18, 1998.

The fall Brant flight peaked in early and late October resulting in early October records and large numbers of this species. On Lake Ontario at Wilson, Willie D'Anna tallied 557 Brant flying over the lake on October 1<sup>st</sup> (8:30AM - 1PM). The birds were in flocks of 12 - 180 birds. Also, on Lake Erie at Dunkirk Harbor, 75 Brant were counted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 34 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (photo on page 100). The only earlier fall migrants were two on September 24, 1977, at Wilson by David Freeland. (This assumes the Brant at Olcott on August 28 and 29, 2007,

was a summering bird). Following the early October pulse of Brant, another peak of 211 Brant were observed on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the more usual October arrival time.

Several factors may have contributed to this unusual flight (more westerly & early) of Brant in our area. Temperatures at their James Bay staging grounds were normal during early autumn, suggesting weather conditions there unlikely triggered an early departure, however, coincident with the sightings on October 1<sup>st</sup>, we did have unusual wind direction from the northeast, rather than normal southwest winds, at an average of 10.3 and maximum of 30 mph. These winds may have shifted the migrant corridor westerly, and over Western New York. Brian Swift, (NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife) speculates this



(Top) Purple Gallinule photographed by Willie D'Anna at Port Weller, Ontario on October 11<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Nelson's Sparrow photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Amherst State Park on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

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Bill Watson

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The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Corden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell

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beds in the James Bay staging area are reported to be in decline" and this combined with an unusually high Brant reproductive success in 2011 may have led to stressed food supply. "I suppose with higher numbers, Brant might migrate along a wider front in search of food. Ultimately only the Brant know for sure why they were so far west so early, but they're not talking." The following website describes recent research on Atlantic Brant conducted by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife that the reader will find informative, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/brant03/main.htm>

Six Cackling Geese found on the 12<sup>th</sup> by Celeste Morien are our seventh earliest (This assumes the Cackling Goose observed September 30, 2007, at Iroquois is the same as the one observed at Iroquois October 5, 2007).

The Black-headed Gull (photo below) found by Jim Pawlicki on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Squaw Island is our fourth earliest fall arrival. Between 1964 and 2004, there are 112 records of Black-headed Gull, but only six occurred in October.

Jim Pawlicki also found a Northern Gannet (photo below) on the 26<sup>th</sup> over Lake Ontario in Olcott. The only earlier occurrence of this species was the Northern Gannet at the mouth of the Niagara River on October 19,

likely hypothesis when he stated that the early Brant migration "was more of an unusual migration route for brant, [rather] than an exceptionally early movement of these birds. For the most part it's been a very mild fall and many waterfowl species have been late arriving and/or late departing. Seeing several hundred brant in late September or early October would not be exceptional in their main corridor from James Bay to the coast, although the peak of migration is usually after Oct 15, as you noted."

Paul M. Castelli (Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, NJDEP) points out that Wilson, NY "is only slightly west of the track of some of the satellite-radioed Brant." Paul also speculated that "another factor for their early departure may have been lack of food. Eelgrass

1947, by Bernie Nathan, Harold and Rachel Axtell and John Filor. Jim calculated that it was flying an average of 29 mph as it flew west along the lakeshore from Olcott to Porter. That is about the same speed as migrating Black Vultures between Hamburg and Beamer Hawk Watches.

**Late Departures:** October 22<sup>nd</sup> Jim Pawlicki spotted 39 very late Chimney Swifts south of Tifft Nature Preserve. There are only four later records of Chimney Swift: one on October 23, 1938, at Derby; two on October 23, 1972 at Niagara Falls, Ontario and five at Erie Beach; 13 on October 26, 1972 at Crescent Park, Ontario; and seven on October 29, 2006 at Fort Erie, Ontario.

The same day Jim also saw the fifth latest House Wren near Buffalo Harbor. The Buffalo Ornithological Society's latest record of House Wren was seen December 6, 1959 at Thunder Bay, Ontario, by Bob Andrle and Joe Thill. On October 21<sup>st</sup> Jim Pawlicki discovered our fourth latest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Woodlawn Beach State Park.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> Bill Watson observed a Northern Parula in the Town of Tonawanda in scrub about a mile



(Top) Greater White-fronted Goose photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on October 13<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Black-headed Gull photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Squaw Island on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Northern Gannet photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Olcott on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

west of Two Mile Creek Road. The only later birds were November 10-14, 1964, in Hamburg, and November 18, 2006, at Queenston, Ontario.

Several unusually late Blackpoll Warblers were found this month. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> Doug Beattie found four near his house on the east side of Francis Rd. in Bethany, Genesee County. He went back the next day and took many photographs of two of them with Elaine Dart. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Jim Pawlicki found two more at Goat Island. The only later Blackpoll records are of one on Goat Island on November 9, 1995, by Bruce Chilton, and Dave Junkin banded another in Wethersfield on October 29<sup>th</sup> last year. In conclusion a remarkable eight of our latest ten documented Blackpoll Warblers occurred this year. Not only were there record late Blackpoll Warblers, they also seemed to everywhere in high numbers during September and early October. They have not appeared on 26 of our 76 October Counts, however on this year's count there were 188! Most (76%) were found in sections 3, 4, and 5 along the south shore of Lake Ontario. In comparison, the previous October Count high was 23.

A very late Wilson's Warbler was repeatedly seen near Richard Salembier's house in Williamsville October 26 thru 28. The only later bird in the B.O.S. archives is the Wilson's Warbler found November 18, 2001, by Mike Morgante in Somerset. However, this year's Wilson's Warbler was still being seen in early December!

The Clay-colored Sparrow found by Joe Mitchell on the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count is our latest fall record. The previous latest record was September 27, 1952, on Squaw Island. Clay-colored Sparrows recently seem to be migrating later with four of our five latest records in the last six years. This is likely due to their increase in our area during the last decade.

A Lincoln's Sparrow found at Amherst State Park October 25 by Jim Pawlicki is the second latest record for this species. The latest record is from Doris Burton and Larson on December 27, 1979 in Wellsville. That particular December was 5.5 °F above average with temperatures reaching 60 near mid month.

On the count Edward Ratajczak discovered a very late Bobolink perched with an Eastern Bluebird and an European Starling on the telephone wires on the west side of Bartz Road, Sheldon Twp., Wyoming Co. This is our sixth October record, but there is also a November 7, 1967, record.

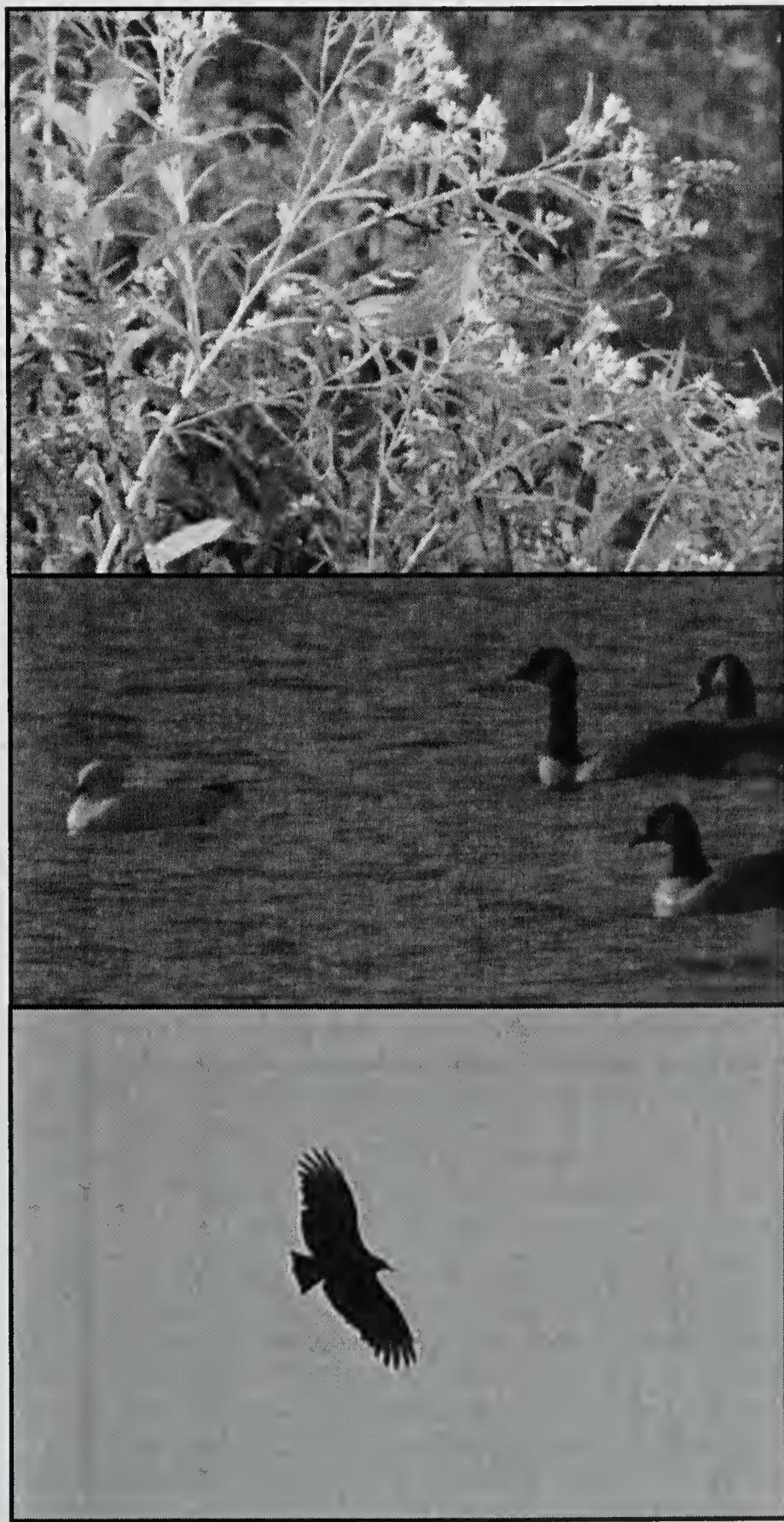
**Rarities:** Prior this October, 2011 there were only two previous October records of Ross's Goose, this October two were reported. A Ross's Goose (photo below) was found at Ring-neck Marsh at Iroquois NWR on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and was observed by many people. On October 29<sup>th</sup> on the B.O.S. Lake Plains Field Trip, Willie D'Anna spotted the second Ross's Goose of the month in the Town of Yates north of Route 18. The only previous October records were found in Coldspring, Cattaraugus County, on October 7, 1992, by Bob Sundell and Wellman and again on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Steve Eaton, and another one in Section 12 on the BOS October 14, 2007 Bird Count.

Trumpeter Swans (photo on page 100) are visiting our area more frequently and may eventually breed at Iroquois NWR in the future. A swan was found at Oak Orchard WMA on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, on the 27<sup>th</sup> two birds

were observed together. A Trumpeter Swan was also reported at Iroquois NWR and Oak Orchard WMA during October, 2010.

The Black Vulture found at Queenston/Lewiston by Jim Pawlicki is our first October record. Between 1892 and 1947 there were only five occurrences of this species, no records exist between 1948 and 1982, and thirteen records between 1983 and 2009. During 2010 and again in 2011 one or more Black Vultures have wintered in the Niagara River Gorge near Queenston/Lewiston resulting in an explosion of sightings and arousing speculation that they may have nested nearby or will soon.

The best bird of the month was the PURPLE GALLINULE (photo on first page) at Port Weller! Good



(Top) Blackpoll Warbler photographed by Beattie in the Town of Bethany on October 24<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Ross's Goose photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and (Bottom) Black Vulture photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Queenston, Ontario on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

birds show up on Buffalo Ornithological Society October Bird Counts. Kayo Roy relates in his verification report: "...John E. Black and Daniel R. Salisbury who were very excited when they found a juvenile Purple Gallinule resting on what appeared to be a partially submerged log or fallen tree limb along the south shoreline of the small east pier pond. This observation was exactly one year and one day shy of fifty years from the date the last Purple Gallinule was observed in Niagara. It too was a similar aged juvenile bird that was captured on 10 October 1962 as it unbelievably walked down Cherry Avenue in Vineland, Ontario (Black and Roy, 2010). My observation of this current bird occurred early the following morning, 10 October 2011. A large group of perhaps 35 birders had gathered at the small pond area of the east pier to look for this rare visitor from the southern U.S. marshes and wetlands. To everyone's delight and within 35-40 minutes, the target bird made its appearance." Several more observers enjoyed studying this bird the next two days. There are only four occurrences of Purple Gallinule in our study area: in the spring of 1932 Howard Fisher found one in a swampy area behind his house in Tonawanda on Ellicott Creek; September 11, 1937, G. J. Clout of St. Catherines observed two at Jordan Harbor; April 27, 1963, Robert Busselle observed one at Beaver Meadow Refuge of the BAS in Java, which stayed until June 9; and October 10, 1962 one was observed in Vineland, Ontario.

Several observers studied six Long-billed Dowitchers from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> at Kumph Marsh in Iroquois NWR. The only larger group of Long-billed Dowitchers was nine observed by Brendan Klick on October 21, 2001, also at Iroquois NWR.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Pawlicki found a California Gull (photo below) at Dunkirk Harbor. This is the first record of this species away from the Niagara River and our second earliest record. (Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter had the earliest record September 20, 1997, at Reservoir S. P.) Prior to 2009 there were no October California Gulls, but now there have been at least one each of the last three years.

Until now our last documented record of Pomarine Jaeger was March 30, 2002. This month there were three observations: one on the 17<sup>th</sup> at LaSalle Park (photo below); two on the 26<sup>th</sup> at Fort Niagara and one at Olcott. Jim Pawlicki found these, as well as the rare Nelson's Sparrow, formerly known as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, (photo on first page) at Amherst State Park on the 6<sup>th</sup>, which was also observed by Richard Salembier on the 7<sup>th</sup>. From 1960 to 2008, there are 21 reports of Nelson's Sparrow in the Noteworthy Record Data Base, and all but three records are in October.

Another rarity was a putative Great Black-backed X Glaucous Gull hybrid (photo on page 100) initially seen and photographed by Willie D'Anna at Dunkirk Harbor on the 2nd, and then observed by Jim Pawlicki further north on the Lake Erie shore in Hamburg on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Woodlawn Beach State Park on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and again by Mike Zebehazy at Hamburg Town Park October 24-25.

**High Counts:** When compared to numbers in the 1964-2008 Noteworthy Records Database and October 2009 & 2010 we find that: the 241 Wood Ducks are our third highest; the 2657 Ruddy Ducks are a new high; the

955 Horned Grebes are our third highest; the 1,500 Double-crested Cormorants are tied for highest; the 236 Turkey Vultures is a new high for October; the 754 American Coots are our highest away from Chautauqua Lake; the 635 Dunlin are our second highest; the 9 Lesser Black-backed Gulls are a new October high; and the 950 Northern Rough-winged Swallows are our second highest.

I would like to thank Jim Pawlicki, Bob Andrle, and Jack Skalicky for making helpful suggestions for The Month, and acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

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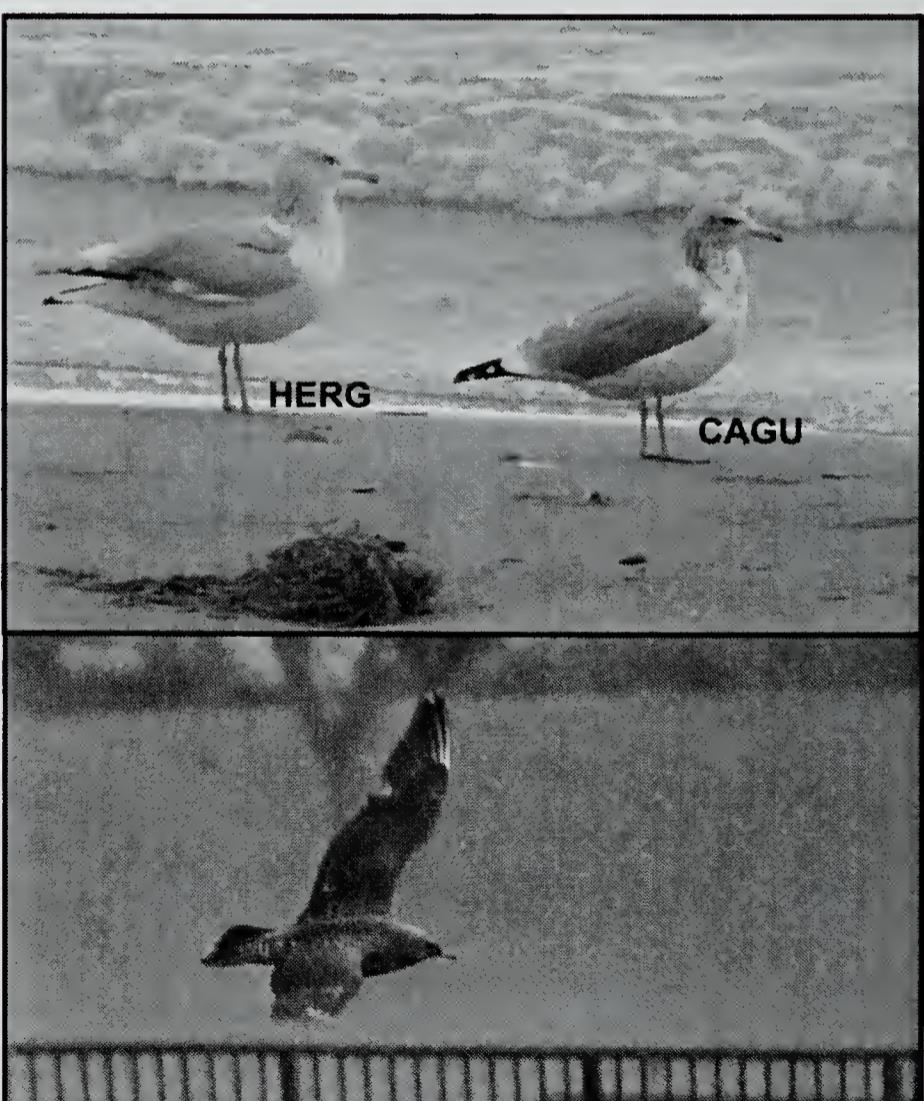
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(Top) California Gull (CAGU) and Herring Gulls (HERG) photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Dunkirk Harbor on October 17<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Pomarine Jaeger photographed by Jim Pawlicki at LaSalle Park in Buffalo on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.  
 F - First record for the migration.  
 L - Last record for the migration.  
 (f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.  
 (imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	<u>12; 13</u>	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Sly; D'Anna et al
"	18	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
"	22; 26	7	Oakfield	Adams; Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	2	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Snow Goose	1F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	16	4	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	18-20; 29	3; 1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes; Mitchell, D'Anna
"	29	2 white	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	29	4 blue	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	23	1	Iroquois NWR	DeLeon, D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Yates	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Brant	<u>1F</u>	557	Wilson	D'Anna
"	<u>1F; 2</u>	75, 25; 34	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell; D'Anna
"	26	211	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg; Pawlicki
"	27	29	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	27	13	Wilson	Sly
"	29	1	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	29; 31	25; 15	Dunkirk Harbor	Mitchell et al; D'Anna
Cackling Goose	<u>12F; 13</u>	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	23	5	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna
"	24; 26	3; 7	Oakfield	Mitchell; Yoerg et al
"	29	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Canada Goose	30	3000	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Mute Swan	13	4	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
"	29	5	Olcott	Fell
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	12; 27	1; 2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Morien
"	12; 18	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Pawlicki, Mitchell
Tundra Swan	30	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Callaghan
"	30	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
Wood Duck	20	241	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Gadwall	16; 30	30; 31	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
"	30	46	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Wigeon	3, 14	154, 140	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	12, 27	155, 200	Iroquois NWR	Sly
Blue-winged Teal	7, 30	18, 6	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	30	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Shoveler	3, 14	156, 150	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	3	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	30	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Pintail	16; 30	26; 37	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
"	19	19	Fort Niagara SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21; 30	64; 12	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Morien
Green-winged Teal	7	46	Franklinville	D'Anna
"	20	92	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	22	25	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Redhead	16; 23	1; 5	Batavia WWTP	Morien; D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	16	205	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	31	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
Greater Scaup	1	1	Chautauqua Lake	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2	4	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	16	101	Wilson	D'Anna
"	31	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Surf Scoter	1F	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Mitchell
"	2	2	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg
"	8; 15	61; 40	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki et al; Jacklin et al
"	23	1	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna
"	10-30	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	16	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
White-winged Scoter	1F	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	1F	3	Chautauqua Lake	Watson
"	8	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki
Black Scoter	15F	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
"	16	6	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	4	Olcott	Sly
"	29	2	Somerset	Morgante
Long-tailed Duck	22F	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
"	22F	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Bufflehead	22	5	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	1	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Common Goldeneye	29	4	Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Common Merganser	16	96	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	27	30	Allegheny Reservoir	Lazarczyk
Red-br. Merganser	16	10	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	16	48	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	2000	Yates & Carlton	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Ruddy Duck	2	3	Waterport	Watson, Pawlicki
"	12	17	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	15, 22	15, 3	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	19	100	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Mitchell
"	22; 30	2302; 2657	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
Red-throated Loon	16F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	10	Somerset	Morgante, D'Anna (BOS)
"	29	7	Yates & Carlton	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Common Loon	2F	2	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg
"	29	60	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	22	30	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Horned Grebe	29	376	Shadigee	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	31	955	Silver Creek to Westfield	Pawlicki, Watson
Red-necked Grebe	8; 11; 26	1; 1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie; Mitchell
"	16	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	25	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Eared Grebe	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
* Northern Gannet	26	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
D.-crested Cormorant	1	90	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	6	763	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	15	800	Donnelly's Pier	Watson
"	16	615	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	27	1500	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Sly
American Bittern	12; 23; 28	1; 1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; D'Anna; Sly
Great Egret	1	13	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	4	10	Strawberry I.	Wason
"	12, 22; 30	79, 22; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3, 7	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
<u>Black Vulture</u>	19	1	Lewiston; Queenston	Watson, Pawlicki
Turkey Vulture	21	236	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki
"	22	80	Lewiston	Fell
Osprey	27	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Lazarczyk
Bald Eagle	2; 14	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry; Pawlicki, Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	21; 22	2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Morien
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	RT Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Rough-legged Hawk	25F	2	Alabama	Mitchell
"	29	2	Yates & Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Merlin	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	28	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	1	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki
"	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	22	5	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
Sora	7L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Mitchell
<u>Purple Gallinule</u>	10	1 juv	Port Weller (Ont)	Roy, Salisbury, Black
"	10	1 juv	Port Weller (Ont)	Watson et al
"	11	1 juv	Port Weller (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Common Gallinule	12; 27	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Sly
American Coot	30	754	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Callaghan
Black-bellied Plover	2; 31	3; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Berry; Pawlicki, Watson
"	7; 23	3; 5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg; Jacklin et al
"	8	9	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki et al
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
"	30	4	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	6	24	Oakfield	Beattie
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	23	20	Lockport	D'Anna
Semipalmated Plover	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	30	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin, Seburn
Spotted Sandpiper	16L	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
Solitary Sandpiper	1L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Greater Yellowlegs	21	43	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	30	2	Times Beach NP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Lesser Yellowlegs	27	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Ruddy Turnstone	1, 14	2, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	3; 8	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
"	17	2	LaSalle Pk (Bflo)	Pawlicki et al
"	26	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Sanderling	21	6	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	26	3	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	30	6	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	6	2	Oakfield	Beattie
"	7; 8	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
"	8	1	Bird I. Pier	Pawlicki, Gordon
"	10L	2	Yates	D. Tetlow
Least Sandpiper	6	11	Oakfield	Beattie
"	11L	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
White-r. Sandpiper	6	6	Oakfield	Beattie
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	12	Oakfield	Beattie
"	18; 27	5; 1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Morien
Dunlin	2F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Zebehazy
"	26	635	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	26	40	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell
"	26; 27	200; 80	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Morien
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	18-26	6	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	23	6	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
Wilson's Snipe	26	12	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
American Woodcock	28	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
* Red-neck. Phalarope	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
* Red Phalarope	16	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Horton
"	16	1	Squaw I.	Zebehazy, Happ
Bonaparte's Gull	15	1200	Buffalo	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	31	1500	Silver Creek to Westfield	Pawlicki, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-headed Gull	<u>15F</u>	1	Squaw I.	Pawlicki et al
"	31	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Little Gull	15	2	Squaw I.	Morien, D'Anna et al
"	16; 19	1; 4	Lewiston	Potter; Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	31	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
* <u>California Gull</u>	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2; 7	2; 9	Goat I.	D'Anna; Pawlicki
"	27	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	29	1 juv	Pt. Breeze	D'Anna (BOS)
Caspian Tern	2	3	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
"	4L	8	Buffalo	Pawlicki
Common Tern	7	35	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	15	2	LaSalle Pk (Bflo)	D'Anna et al
"	16	5	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
* <u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	17	1	LaSalle Pk (Bflo)	Pawlicki et al
"	26	2	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
Parasitic Jaeger	15	1 juv	LaSalle Pk (Bflo)	Morien, D'Anna, Potter
"	26	3	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Olcott	Sly
Jaeger species	14; 15	13; 4	Hamburg	Yoerg et al; Pawlicki
"	19	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Chimney Swift	16	145	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Horton
"	17	11	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>22L</u>	39	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	4	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Red-headed Wdpkr.	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	1	Tifft NP	Younkin
Eastern Phoebe	29	1	Golden Hill SP	Fell
"	30	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Northern Shrike	<u>25F</u>	1	Shelby	Ragan
"	28	1	Yates	Sharon
"	30	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Blue-headed Vireo	21	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	3	1	North Buffalo	Gordon
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>15L</u>	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Common Raven	18, 22	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	18	3	Carroll	Lazarczyk
"	30	1	Bennington	Horton
Tree Swallow	16	80	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Horton
"	16, 22	75, 92	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	22	1	Chautauqua	Berry
"	26	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
N. Rough-w. Swallow	2	950	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	16	580	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Horton
"	21	2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell
"	26	75	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Barn Swallow	26	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	<u>30L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Carolina Wren	6 - 12	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	10	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Watson
House Wren	<u>22L</u>	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Winter Wren	4 - 27	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	23	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	1	Ward	Brooks
Marsh Wren	7, 12	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Golden-cr. Kinglet	22	3	Shelby	Morien
"	27	4	Williamsville	Salembier
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23	4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	27	2	Williamsville	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bl.-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>21L</u>	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	2	North Buffalo	Gordon
"	11L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Swainson's Thrush	2, 3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	3	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Hermit Thrush	11 - 29	1 - 4	Williamsville	Salembier
"	19	15	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	22	12	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
"	22, 23	1, 1	Bethany	Beattie
Gray Catbird	25	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	25	2	Alexander	Dart
Brown Thrasher	13	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	20 - 21	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	1	Times Beach NP	Garrigan
"	28	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
American Pipit	20	30	French Creek	Lazarczyk
Ovenbird	3L	1	Tifft NP	Younkin
Tennessee Warbler	10	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Salembier
"	13L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Orange-cr. Warbler	19	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Horton
"	19	1	Squaw I.	Horton
"	22	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
Nashville Warbler	22L	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Common Yellowthroat	23	1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	1	Squaw I.	Horton
Hooded Warbler	1	1	Pomfret	Pawlicki
American Redstart	4	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
Cape May Warbler	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	7	3	Farmersville	Potter, D'Anna
Northern Parula	3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	<u>30L</u>	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Magnolia Warbler	3	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	3	Tifft NP	Sharon
Blackpoll Warbler	10	6	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	19	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Genter
"	13	1	Pt. Breeze	Mitchell
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter
"	19, <u>26L</u>	1, 2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	<u>23, 24</u>	4, 2	Bethany	Beattie et al
Palm Warbler	10L	1	Alexander	Fox
Yellow-r. Warbler	22, 26, 27	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	19L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Wilson's Warbler	<u>26-28</u>	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Eastern Towhee	22	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	22	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Amer. Tree Sparrow	25F	3	Alfred	Brooks
"	30	15	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Callaghan
"	30	2	Tonawanda	Watson
Chipping Sparrow	25	6 banded	Alfred	Brooks
"	29	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Mitchell, Pawlicki
Field Sparrow	22	8	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Vesper Sparrow	8	2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
* <u>Nelson's Sparrow</u>	6, 7	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
Fox Sparrow	10	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23; 30	3; 5	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	3	Port Weller (Ont)	Watson
"	22	3	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
"	<u>25L</u>	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
White-thr. Sparrow	23	65	Tonawanda	Watson
Lapland Longspur	30F	1	Times Beach NP	Pawlicki, Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Bunting	22F	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	29	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	50	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	29	1	Pt. Breeze	D'Anna (BOS)
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	3L	1	Tifft NP	Younkin
Indigo Bunting	1, 2	2, 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Eastern Meadowlark	23	3	Newfane	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	7	3	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	23	15	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Grackle	13	1000	Chautauqua Co.	Lazarczyk, Beebe
Purple Finch	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Siskin	4F, 27	10, 10	Wilson	Potter

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

277

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids (including October Count) recorded this month:

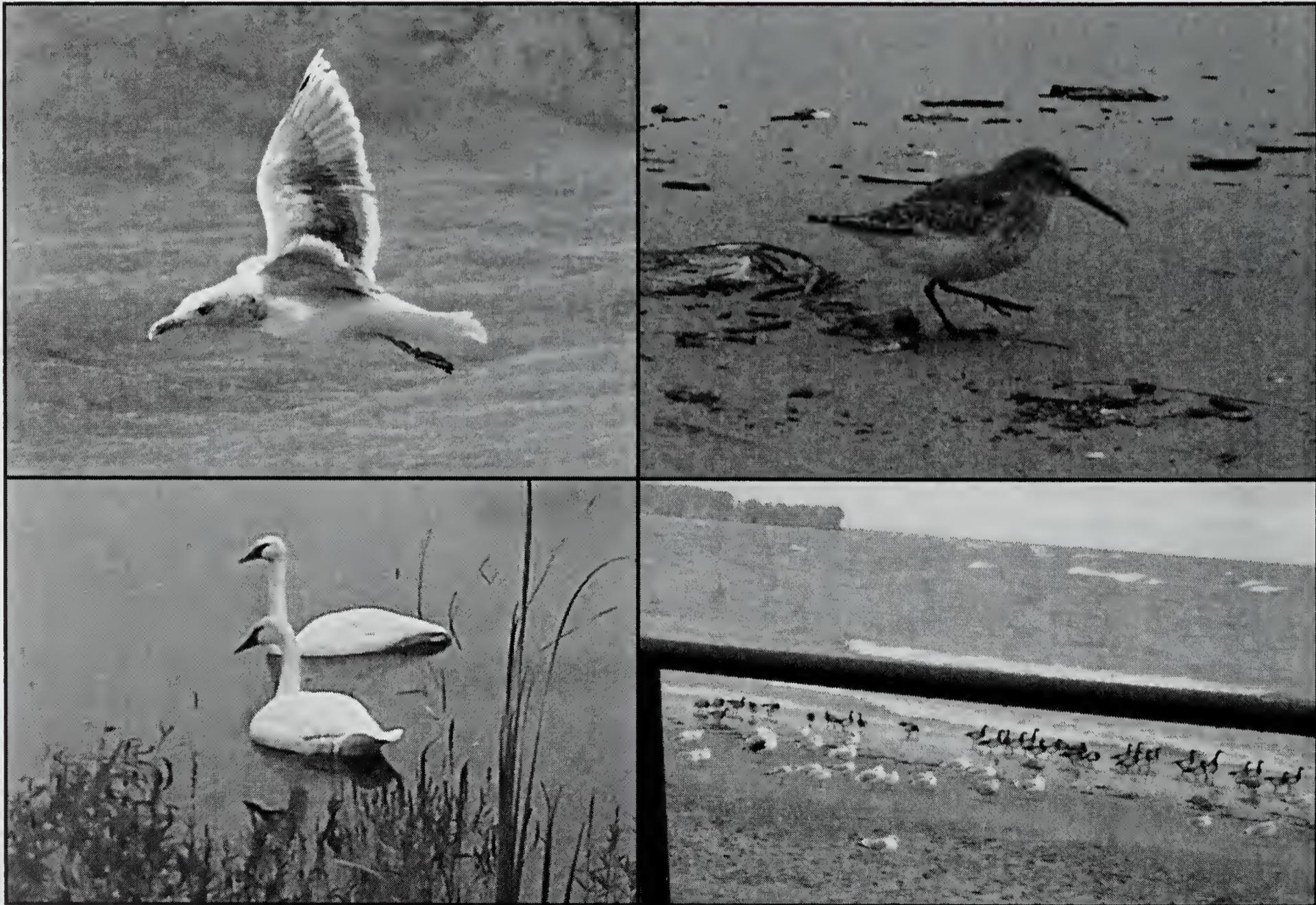
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Total for the year 2011 (to date):

**284**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

Putative Great Black-backed X 24, 25 1 Hamburg Town Park Zebehazy et al  
Glaucous Gull



(Clockwise from upper left) Possible Great Black-backed x Glaucous Gull photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Hamburg Town Park on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Dunlin photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Dunkirk Harbor on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brant photographed by Willie D'Anna at Dunkirk Harbor on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Trumpeter Swans photographed by Morien at Oak Orchard WMA on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

# Report of the 76<sup>h</sup> Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 9, 2011

Compiler: Marcie Jacklin

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

Weather for the count day was unremarkable. The day was warm and sunny with very light winds. Days preceding and days following the count were similarly pleasant, sunny, and calm. Early the previous week, skies were clear with light north winds providing a strong push for migration. Temperatures on the count day rose from the mid fifties to the mid seventies by midday and fell to the mid fifties by midnight. Winds were southerly, less than 10 mph.

## Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:21 AM EDT      Sunset: 6:43 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Clear	56°F	52°F	30.4	SE3mph	
3:00 am	Partly Cloudy	56	51	30.40	SE5	
6:00 am	Partly Cloudy	53	48	30.43	S5	
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	65	48	30.45	SW5	
Noon	Partly Cloudy	73	51	30.41	SW7	
3:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	76	52	30.35	SW8	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	69	52	30.35	SW5	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	59	54	30.34	Calm	
Midnight	Partly Cloudy	57	51	30.34	SE3	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## GEESE - HERONS

<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(13)</b>	White-winged Scoter	<b>5</b>	<b>(3,4)</b>
Snow Goose		11	(4,5,8)	Bufflehead	F	1 (9)
Canada Goose		19419		Common Goldeneye	F	6 (7)
Brant		1	(8)	Hooded Merganser		5 (11,13,19)
Mute Swan		37		Common Merganser		388
<b>Trumpeter Swan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(10)</b>		Red-breasted Merganser		91
Tundra Swan		1	(13)	Ruddy Duck		158 (13,17)
Wood Duck		249		unspecified waterfowl		4 (20)
Gadwall		10		Ring-necked Pheasant		16
American Wigeon		110		Ruffed Grouse		8
American Black Duck		66		Wild Turkey		39
Mallard		1264		Common Loon		226 (3,4,12)
Blue-winged Teal		26	(7,10,23)	Pied-billed Grebe		97
Northern Shoveler		77	(13,15)	Horned Grebe		51
Northern Pintail		2	(4,17)	Red-necked Grebe		8 (4,13,17)
Green-winged Teal		146		Double-crested Cormorant		2321
Redhead		3	(3)	American Bittern		3 (10,23)
Ring-necked Duck		345		Great Blue Heron		135
Greater Scaup		1	(3)	Great Egret		11
Lesser Scaup		18	(2,13)	Green Heron		5
unspecified scaup		50	(9)	Black-cr. Night-Heron		7
Surf Scoter		84	(4,8)			

**VULTURES - COOTS**

Turkey Vulture	450	American Kestrel	31
Osprey	5	Merlin	1 (18)
Bald Eagle	12	Peregrine Falcon	1 (8)
Northern Harrier	16	Sora	2 (11,13)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	<b>Purple Gallinule</b>	* 1 (2)
Cooper's Hawk	29	Common Moorhen	1 (10)
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	American Coot	34
Red-tailed Hawk	147		

**PLOVERS - TERNS**

Black-bellied Plover	14	(5,6)	Dowitcher species	1 (7)
Semipalmated Plover	1	(4)	Wilson's Snipe	8 (5,10,23)
Killdeer	513		American Woodcock	4 (4,19,20)
Greater Yellowlegs	5	(10,18,25)	unspecified jaegers	1 (4)
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	(7,10,21)	Bonaparte's Gull	650
Spotted Sandpiper	2	(2,19)	Ring-billed Gull	9099
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	(13)	Herring Gull	780
Least Sandpiper	3	(4,10)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3 (4,9,19)
White-rumped Sandpiper	4	(6,19)	Great Black-backed Gull	28
Pectoral Sandpiper	11	(2,4,10)	unspecified gulls	11 (8)
Dunlin	5	(1,6,7)	Common Tern	17 (2,3)
Stilt Sandpiper	L	4 (2,6)		

**PIGEONS - SWALLOWS**

Rock Pigeon	1467	Pileated Woodpecker	23
Mourning Dove	956	unspecified woodpecker	5 (10,20)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 (6)	Eastern Wood-Pewee	L 4 (1,2,13)
Eastern Screech-Owl	23	Eastern Phoebe	47
Great Horned Owl	9	Blue-headed Vireo	4 (12,25)
Barred Owl	3 (12,14)	Philadelphia Vireo	L 1 (7)
Chimney Swift	5 (8,11)	Red-eyed Vireo	5
Belted Kingfisher	56	Blue Jay	1663
Red-headed Woodpecker	1 (7)	American Crow	1937
Red-bellied Woodpecker	158	Common Raven	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	38	Horned Lark	67
Downy Woodpecker	246	Tree Swallow	424
Hairy Woodpecker	76	N. Rough-winged Swallow	31 (2)
Northern Flicker	186		

**TITS - WAXWINGS**

Black-capped Chickadee	976	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3 (1,4)
Tufted Titmouse	108	Swainson's Thrush	L 20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	41	Hermit Thrush	53
White-breasted Nuthatch	189	Wood Thrush	1 (20)
Brown Creeper	29	American Robin	1947
Carolina Wren	20	Gray Catbird	73

House Wren	4	Northern Mockingbird	23
Winter Wren	14	Brown Thrasher	2 (12,23)
Marsh Wren	1 (11)	European Starling	35947
Golden-crowned		American Pipit	
Kinglet	257	Cedar Waxwing	41
Ruby-crowned			
Kinglet	238		694
Eastern Bluebird	310		

## W A R B L E R S

Tennessee Warbler	3	(12,13)	Song Sparrow	731
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	(3,4)	Lincoln's Sparrow	3 (23,28)
Nashville Warbler	7		Swamp Sparrow	154
Magnolia Warbler	L	5	White-throated Sparrow	1052
Cape May Warbler	L	1 (4)	White-crowned Sparrow	160
Black-throated Blue Warbler	L	2 (4,12)	Dark-eyed Junco	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	936		unspecified sparrows	216
Black-throated Green Warbler		(2,9)		20
Blackburnian Warbler	L	1 (9)	Northern Cardinal	291
Pine Warbler		14	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	L 4
Palm Warbler		3	Indigo Bunting	L 4 (3,12,18)
Bay-breasted Warbler	L	2 (10)	<b>Bobolink</b>	L 1 (15)
Blackpoll Warbler		188	Red-winged Blackbird	4484
American Redstart	L	1 (9)	Eastern Meadowlark	57
Common Yellowthroat		14	Rusty Blackbird	316
unspecified warblers		8 (12,20)	Common Grackle	1892
Eastern Towhee		52	Brown-headed Cowbird	1049
Chipping Sparrow		526	unspecified blackbirds	100 (8)
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>		1 (17)	Purple Finch	17
Field Sparrow		34	House Finch	
Vesper Sparrow		2 (5)		165
Savannah Sparrow		14	Pine Siskin	69
<b>Nelson's Sparrow</b>		1 (11)	American Goldfinch	865
Fox Sparrow	F	1 (19)	House Sparrow	1241
			unspecified birds	16 (12,13,20)

**Summary Information – Total Species Observed .....168**

**Total Individual Birds Observed ... 100,603**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Marcie Jacklin, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 76 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2011 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

## RECORDS:

**First count record:** Greater White-fronted Goose, 5; Purple Gallinule, 1; Clay-colored Sparrow, 1.

**Second count record:** None.

**First decade record:** Greater White-fronted Goose, 5; American Bittern, 3; Purple Gallinule, 1;; Clay-colored Sparrow, 1; Nelson's Sparrow, 1.

**Second decade record:** Sora, 2; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Bobolink, 1.

**Third decade record:** Brant, 1; Trumpeter Swan, 1; Tundra Swan, 1; Stilt Sandpiper, 4; Blackburnian Warbler, 1.

## INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Common Merganser, 388 (7.0 x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (3.8 x); Pine Warbler, 14 (14 x); Blackpoll Warbler, 188 (31.3 x). *Total of 4.*

**Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** Northern Pintail, 2 (2.4%). *Total of 1.*

#### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2002:

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Greater White-fronted Goose, 5 (5 x); Common Merganser, 388 (1.8 x); Red-necked Grebe, 8 (3.6 x); White-rumped Sandpiper, 4 (4 x); American Bittern 3 ((7.5 x); Sora 2 (6.7x); Eastern Screech-Owl, 23 (1.5 x); Philadelphia Vireo, 1 (6.2 x); Swainson's Thrush, 20 (2.2 x); European Starling 35,947 (1.2 x); Tennessee Warbler 3, (3 x); Pine Warbler, 14 (3.5 x); Blackpoll Warbler, 188 (7.8 x); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4 (4 x). *Total of 14.*

**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Gadwall, 10 (26.3%); Mallard, 1264 (42.7%); Northern Pintail, 2 (5.1%); Lesser Scaup, 18 (9.4%); Hooded Merganser, 5 (31.3%); Ruffed Grouse, 8 (61.6%); Wild Turkey, 39 (201%); Northern Harrier, 16 (55.2%); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 18 (69%); Merlin, 1 (25%); Peregrine Falcon, 1 (50%); American Coot, 34 (7.2%); Greater Yellowlegs, 5 (19.2%); Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 (25%); Herring Gull, 780 (40.7%); Rock Pigeon, 1467 (71.8%); Mourning Dove, 956 (48.5%); Blue-headed Vireo, 4 (36.4%); American Crow, 1937 (55.7%); Common Raven, 7 (31.8%); Black-capped Chickadee, 976 (66.7%); American Pipit, 41 (16.7%); Field Sparrow, 34 (34.7%); Fox Sparrow, 1 (14.3%); Lincoln's Sparrow, 3 (37.5%); White-throated Sparrow, 1052 (60.4%); Dark-eyed Junco, 216 (25.9%); Red-winged Blackbird, 4484 (40.4%); Purple Finch, 17 (23%); House Finch, 165 (38.9%); American Goldfinch, 865 (68.1%). *Total of 31.*

#### SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 2002-2011:

This report continues a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as I have done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species whose population totals are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

**INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the multiple by which the decade averages have increased except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Canada Goose, 3.1x; Mute Swan, (0/316); Gadwall, 3.9x; Mallard, 2.1x; Northern Shoveler, 27.2x; Ring-necked Duck, 8.6x; Hooded Merganser, 4.2x; Common Merganser, 11.6x; Red-breasted Merganser 7.5x; Ruddy Duck, 15.7; Wild Turkey 5.3x; Common Loon, 33.1x; Double-crested Cormorant, 1.4x; Great Blue Heron, 1.4x; Great Egret, (0/173); Turkey Vulture, 13.2x; Bald Eagle, 53.0; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2.9x; Cooper's Hawk, 2.9x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Merlin, 22.0x; Peregrine Falcon, 22.0x; Ring-billed Gull, 1.8x; Lesser Black-backed Gull, (0/17); Rock Pigeon, 2.1x; Mourning Dove 5.6x; Eastern Screech Owl, 2.1x; Barred Owl, 2.4x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 31.9x; Pileated Woodpecker, 3.2x; American Crow, 1.3x; Common Raven, (0/221); Tufted Titmouse, 13.2x; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1.8x; Carolina Wren, 5.3x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.1x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.3x; Northern Cardinal, 1.4x; House Finch, 235.7; *Total = 39 species*; Observers, 1.2x.

**DECREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the percentage to which the averages have decreased to except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

American Wigeon, 23%; American Black Duck, 21%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 11%; Ruffed Grouse, 29%; Red-shouldered Hawk, 67%; Broad-winged Hawk, 25%; American Kestrel, 55%; Common Moorhen, 10%; Sanderling, 34%; Dunlin, 22%; Wilson's Snipe, 25%; American Woodcock, 19%; Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Belted Kingfisher, 58%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 11%; House Wren, 43%; Swainson's Thrush, 35%; Wood Thrush, 43%; American Robin, 50%; Brown Thrasher, 15%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10%; Magnolia Warbler, 9%; Cape May Warbler, 9%; Blackburnian Warbler, 10%; Palm Warbler, 41%; Black-and-white Warbler, 15%; American Redstart, 26%; Northern Waterthrush, (9/0); Wilson's Warbler, 2%; Eastern Towhee, 29%; Field Sparrow, 31%; Vesper Sparrow, 3%; Savannah Sparrow, 29%; Song Sparrow, 45%; Dark-eyed Junco, 43%; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 16%; Red-winged Blackbird, 47%; Eastern Meadowlark, 11%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 50%; American Goldfinch, 53%; House Sparrow, 39%. *Total = 41 species*

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Julie Tedesco, Chris Yonker, Diane Yonker, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Paula Clark, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Carol Horvat, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Corey Callaghan, Joeseph Fell, Julie Eberhart, Kyle Horton, Jim Pawlicki, Holly Sweeny, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple
7. Lowbanks, ON: Dennis Gralak, **Mike Hamilton**, Marg Partridge, Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells
8. Fort Erie, ON: Josh Allein, Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, Jennifer Kazakoff, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Bernie Kester, Jerry Lazarczyk, Karen Lewis, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Frank Voelker
10. Akron, NY: Nick Fratello, **David Gordon**, Elle Johnson, Kim Marie Markle, Damon Praefke, Don Roberson, Sue Shipps, Kimberly Sucy, John Welte, Martha Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
11. Buffalo, NY: Nancy Bompcky, Ann Fourtner, Chris Hiestand, Alexis Lang, **Chuck Rosenburg**, Richard Salembier
12. Lancaster, NY: Joe Carlo, Kurt Fox, **Mike Morgante**, Nathaniel Young
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jodi Laird, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Joe Salvadore, Paula Stone, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
14. Hamburg, NY: Patricia Andrle, Robert Andrle, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan
15. Java, NY: Diane Evans, **Ed Ratajczak**, Sally Uzunov
16. Angola, NY: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Tom Connare, Karen Landau, **Frances Rew**, George Robins
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Joe Mitchell**
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Rick Thomas, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Andrews, Betty Bledsoe, James Fegley, Ely Knap, Virginia Norton, Michael Raybuck, Carol Stonemetz, **Larry Wilson**
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: William Baker, Nan Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Raymond Budniewski, Amy Choboy, Sylvia Clarke, Joanne Goetz, Thomas Goetz, Joseph Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Gregory Harper, Terence Mosher, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Pam Rossotto, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Mary Shearman, **Jeanine Smith**, Ted Taft, Wayne Yunghans
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Linda O'Brien, William Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Nancy Karp, Susan Lawton, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Steve Maggio, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha, Bill Penoyer
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: Mike DeSha, **Tim Baird**, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Denton Willett**
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipal, Wilma Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Don Brink, Betsy Brooks, **Diane Converso**, Paul Cully, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Marion McClure, Ann Pipal J. Robert Pipal, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Jim Smith, Wilma Taggart, **Suzanne Wood**

**Total Number of Observers: 183**



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## January - April Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Jan. 11: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Tim DePriest, Habitat Ecologist for NYDEC, will present "Improving the Habitat Along the Niagara River for Ospreys, Terns, and other Wildlife."

**Jan. 1/15 (Sunday): January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is from Jan. 14-22. However, counters are urged to use the target date of **Sunday, Jan. 15 if at all possible**, weather permitting. Contact the Compiler for info: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com).

**Feb. 8: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mark Whitmore, Forest Entomologist of the Department of Natural Resources of Cornell University will discuss "Invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer and How Bird Watchers Can Help With Its Management."

**Mar. 4: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip.** Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on 6929 Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Bring your two-way radios. Leader: Chuck Rosenburg (655-0231, [cprosenb@roadrunner.com](mailto:cprosenb@roadrunner.com), cell phone: 622-3278)

**Mar. 14: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Joshua Stiller a recent graduate of the Syracuse School of Forestry, Satellite telemetry and ecology of Common Mergansers utilizing trout streams in southeastern New York.

**Apr. 11: Wednesday. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Marcie Jacklin will discuss the BOS October Count, David Gordon will discuss the BOS Christmas Count.

**BOS Special Projects Grants 2012 Application Deadline is March 31.** Every year the Buffalo Ornithological Society funds a number of projects that contribute either to ornithological research in our region or to efforts aimed at educating people about our local birds. In deciding how these funds are distributed, our first priority is to support studies that will make a positive impact on ornithological research. The second priority is education of the public about ornithology.

In most cases grants are limited to \$750 or less per applicant. Grant recipients must agree to report the outcome of funded efforts to the BOS. Typically, this involves a presentation at a BOS meeting, however occasionally a written report is accepted instead.

Applicants are invited to download the application form from the BOS website <http://www.buffaloornithologalsociety.org/>, complete it and either scan it and e-mail it or send it to the chairperson of the special projects committee:

Dr Robert L. DeLeon  
381 Cadman Dr  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
[Rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:Rldeleon@yahoo.com)

# The Prothonotary

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2011

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 77, No. 12 December 2011

### THE MONTH: November

Gerry Rising

It is interesting to compare this November's weather with last year, which was described by Steve McLaughlin as "quiet and tranquil." I think that you will find this year quieter and even more tranquil. Here is some evidence with 2010 in parentheses: temperature average 46.5 °F (41.5) which was 5.8° (1.2°) above normal. Precipitation 3.1 in. (3.55 in.) which was 0.9 in. below average (-0.4 in). Snow: 0 in. (1.6 in.); normal for the month is 7.9 in.! November 2011 was more like a usual September.

Updating what I said last year: An even blander month like this ought to produce an even blander listing of birds, but there were, as always, enough exceptions to reward those who continued to spend hours in the field or observing at feeders.

Here are my brief notes on the reports:

Waterfowl: It was a good year for geese and swans: Greater White-fronted, Snow (including some blues) and Ross's Geese (photo on page 113) and Brant all recorded as well as all three swans. Best duck was the Harlequin found in LaSalle Park on the 20th, but the 1387 Ruddy Ducks in the Batavia WWTP ponds on the 5th are equally remarkable. Another high count: 1200 Red-throated Loons off Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 19th. An American White Pelican was also seen at Niagara-on-the-Lake between the 25th and 30th (photo on page 108).

Raptors: The only Rough-legged Hawk was recorded in the Town of Yates (Orleans County) on the 25th. There were four reports of Merlins that appear to be distinct individuals.

Marsh and Shorebirds: Coot numbers continue high with a maximum of 785 at Iroquois on the 9th. An impressive ten shorebird species were reported, including several Black-bellied Plovers early in the month and an American Avocet on the 12th in South Dayton.

Gulls, Terns, and Pelagics: The mild weather seemed not to hold back gull movement as about ten species

were recorded including Black-legged Kittiwake and Little, Franklin's, California, Iceland,



Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls. Although there were many Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River, as there is every November, the numbers were certainly fewer than the 30,000 reported last year. They arrived in force in December, however, as our Buffalo CBC census team saw a veritable blizzard of them driven from behind Squaw Island by an eagle.

A late Common Tern was recorded on the 20th in Hamburg. Three Parasitic Jaegers were seen from Fort Niagara on the 3rd and individual jaegers were recorded through the month. A Razorbill (photos below) appeared at the mouth of the Niagara River where it was seen from the 8th to the 26th.

Passerines: A late cuckoo was in Cheektowaga on the 7th. Northern Shrikes appeared, one on the 5th in Port Colborne and two others on the 26th in Iroquois and at the Batavia WWTP. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets



Razorbill photographed by Joseph Mitchell (Top) and Willie D'Anna (Bottom) on Lake Ontario at Ft Niagara State Park on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively.

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Gerry Rising

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The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Please send correspondence to: Jack Skalicky, PO Box 58886, Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0886 or Email [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Publishing: Audrey Horbett

**Editorial Consultants:** Robert Andrle, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

**President:** Thomas O'Donnell

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Kayo Roy

Bernie Kester

Holly Sweeney

William Watson

2012-2014

Douglas Beattie

Karen Lee Lewis

David Suggs

lingered; they were found in Alfred on the 1st and at Tifft on the 2nd.

Four warbler species stayed around. Two of them were seen only early in the month: Common Yellowthroat in Tonawanda on the 6th and Hooded Warbler on the 1st at Bemus Point (photo on page 113). Yellow-rumps were recorded early and late, but the most interesting of these birds was a bright male Wilson's Warbler (photo on page 113) that played hide-and-seek with observers around the Salembiers' yard within a half mile of Amherst State Park.

Most of us think of Snow Buntings as winter birds here but many of them also migrate through the region. Evidence of this is the fact that reports of them were early in this month with a maximum of 110 in Wilson on the 5th.

This year's 125 Rusty Blackbirds in Alden on the 15th is welcome given the decline in the numbers of this species, but it is down from last year's maximum of 1800.

Also apparently passing through were 59 White-winged Crossbills at Fort Niagara on the 12th and a smaller group of 5 at Point Breeze on the 25th; two flocks of Redpolls: 15 on the 6th at Wilson-Tuscarora Park and another 15 on the 24th in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario; and small numbers of Pine Siskins that appeared through the month, the maximum 60 on the 9th at Iroquois.

Brief excerpts from the verification reports: Kurt Fox about the avocet: "It banked and I was able to see its bowling pin-shaped head/neck/body (fat body, thinner neck and bulgy head) and long recurved bill, with long legs dangling rearward." About Bill Watson's pelican: "The wings were briefly seen when the American White Pelican took short flights to get away from Billy the Golden Retriever."

Willie D'Anna's Black Vultures: "[On the 12th] Michael McBriar found these [three] birds perched on the Ontario shoreline, just across the river from us.... On the 24th we saw three Black Vultures in the gorge on the NY side, trying to gain altitude.... They were relocated in trees on the gorge rim on the Ontario side and I was surprised to

note that there were now four." And about his California Gull: " This bird seemed slightly darker than most of the California Gulls I have seen on the Niagara River, suggesting the nominate race. A better view would be necessary to confirm this." Joe Mitchell about that same bird: It "was sitting between two adult Herring Gulls. This made for a nice comparison of the necessary diagnostic features."

Mike Morgante about his cuckoo: "While driving eastbound on the Thruway approaching exit 49 I noticed a bird flying south over the road with a long, slender body and long tail. My immediate reaction was that this was unquestionably a cuckoo and realized how unusual it was to see one in early November. I watched it as my car quickly approached and the bird flew into a woodlot. The bird was lanky and distinctly shaped like a cuckoo. I would have thought nothing of it if it was late spring, summer, or early fall. In early November I knew to get as much a look as possible in the short time allowed. I was driving too quickly to even consider pulling over and the bird was soon gone into the woodlot. I could not ID to species but would suspect Yellow-billed based on the later date."

Bill Watson about an apparent hybrid teal at Batavia WWTP on the 5th: "In my first sweep of the pond I saw a small duck with white near the bill and called out Blue-winged Teal. Later Celeste [Morien] said that she found a Green-winged Teal, but did not see the Blue-winged Teal. I went back to the bird and saw that it resembled a Green-winged Teal, but had the white head crescents near the bill, like a Blue-winged Teal."

Mike Morgante about the Razorbill: "Betsy Potter initially identified the bird in flight which I got on right away. It flew low over the water with rapid wing beats, landed closer to the fort and began diving frequently. After the feeding foray over several minutes, bird rested shortly and then flew back toward Lake Ontario." Bill Watson added: "On average it did not seem to stay under water as long as loons, cormorant, and grebes, and unlike these other diving birds it would often reappear very close to the location it dove."

Please note: These selections are from only a few of these reports. We are indebted to all verification writers as well as all those who submit monthly observations.



American White Pelican photographed by Dave Van de Laar at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (8th Edition - Revised 2009) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: [BChi314159@aol.com](mailto:BChi314159@aol.com)

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	9; 13	9; 7	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Morien
Snow Goose	12	3	S. Dayton	Fox
"	15	1 wh	Iroquois NWR	Hess
"	22	5 wh & 6 bl	Oakfield	Watson
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	18	1 juv.	Chautauqua Lake	Simmons
"	26	1	Oakfield	Wojewodzki et al
Brant	6	2	Point Breeze	Daniels, Carlson
Cackling Goose	1	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	5	8	Oakfield	Watson
"	9; 15	10; 5	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Hess
"	12	4	Franklinville	Fox
Mute Swan	6; 21	8; 2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter; Sharon
"	10; 21	2; 2	Fort Niagara SP	Lazarczyk et al; Sharon
"	25	2 ad + 3 yg	Point Breeze	Watson
"	25	1 ad	Waterport	Watson
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	5, 22	2, 2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Tundra Swan	10; 24	4; 40	Grand I.	Watson et al; Lazarczyk
"	11	125	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	12	28	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
"	13	22	Clarence	Morgante
"	18	85	Chautauqua Lake	Simmons
"	20	88	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	22	52	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Wood Duck	13	3	Tillman Road WMA	Morgante
"	29	2	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Gadwall	2, 9	26, 22	Tifft NP	Watson
"	13	105	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	23	65	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
American Wigeon	5; 13	23; 52	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Morien
"	23	65	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
American Black Duck	5; 6	18; 30	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	12	25	Cuba Lake	Fox
"	21	27	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	9	7	Alexander	Dart
"	<u>22L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	5; 6	57; 45	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Fox
"	10, 13	10	Alexander	Beattie
"	13; 25	2; 16	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Watson
"	21	1	Lyndonville	Sharon
"	25	20	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
Northern Pintail	6, 11	44, 35	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	13	24	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	22	14	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Green-winged Teal	5	54	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	9, 10	11, 10	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	12	65	Cuba Lake	Fox
Canvasback	5F	25	NF W-fowl View. Area	Shulgina
"	6	6	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Redhead	5	21	Wilson	D'Anna
"	12	12	S. Dayton	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	29	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
"	22; 26	2; 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
Ring-necked Duck	5, 22	21, 5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	12	244	S. Dayton	Fox
"	13	17	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Greater Scaup	5, 22	1, 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10	300	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	25	365	Yates	Watson
Lesser Scaup	5, 22	8, 6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10	20	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	13	91	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Harlequin Duck	20F	1 fem	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	D&D Suggs
Surf Scoter	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10; 21	3; 9	Fort Niagara SP	Lazarczyk; Salembier
"	12	1	S. Dayton	Fox
White-winged Scoter	10; 21	5; 12	Fort Niagara SP	Watson et al; Salembier
"	21	11	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Black Scoter	5	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	6	2	Point Breeze	Carlson
"	21; 25	4; 4	Fort Niagara SP	Salembier; Sly
Long-tailed Duck	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	5	128	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10	17	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	1	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Bufflehead	11; 22	60; 48	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Watson
"	12	60	Cuba Lake	Fox
"	16	1300	Buffalo	Watson
"	19	67	Barcelona Harbor	Berry
"	21	5000	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Common Goldeneye	5	98	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10, 20	50, 320	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	24	30	Fort Niagara SP	Lazarczyk, Watson
Hooded Merganser	12	64	Cuba Lake	Fox
"	13	87	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	18	39	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	25	33	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	29	Times Beach NP	Hess
Common Merganser	5, 22	46, 35	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	12; 26	140; 80	Cuba Lake	Fox; Mitchell
"	22	40	Oakfield	Watson
"	26	82	Cuba Lake	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	5	390	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10	50	Fort Niagara SP	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	21	43	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	5; 23	23; 32	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Fox
"	5; 6	1387; 1293	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Fox
"	12	55	S. Dayton	Fox
"	12	14	Cuba Lake	Fox
"	18	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
"	19	1	South Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
Red-throated Loon	5	91	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10; 12	35; 6	Fort Niagara SP	Watson et al; Morgante
"	19	1200; 811	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Platt; Peck, Hoar
"	25	5	Yates	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	1, 29	1, 1	Sinking Ponds NS	Holmes
"	20	4	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Horned Grebe	19	15	Barcelona Harbor	Berry
"	26	7	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Red-necked Grebe	5	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	6	3	Fort Niagara SP	Carlson
"	14	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	18	2	Barcelona Harbor	Watson
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	25-30	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Van de Laar
"	27	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	10	580	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Hess
"	12	1	Lime Lake	Fox
"	13	29	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	16	270	Buffalo	Watson
"	23	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Great Egret	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	2	6	Squaw I.	Watson
"	4; 5	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Mitchell
<u>Black Vulture</u>	12, 24	3, 4	Lewiston, Queenston(Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	30	2	Lewiston	Hess
Turkey Vulture	8	1	Jamestown	Berry
"	10; 30	16; 2	Lewiston	Watson, Lazarczyk; Hess
"	12	15	Artpark	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	12	1	Franklinville	Fox
Osprey	1	1	Orangeville	Markel
"	<u>19L</u>	1	Clarence	Morgante
Bald Eagle	2	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan
"	5, 25	2 ad, 1 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	13	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	19, 27	1	Mayville	Goetz
"	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	25	2	Westfield	Goetz
Northern Harrier	11-25	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	25	1	Carlton	Pawlicki, Watson
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1	Bennington	Horton
"	6	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	25	1	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
Merlin	7	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Morgante
"	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Frauen
"	19	1	Eggertsville	D&D Suggs
"	19	1	Clarence	Morgante
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	11	1	Buffalo	D'Anna et al
"	11	1	Fort Niagara SP	Morse
"	12	1 imm	Squaw Island, Bflo.	Yoerg
"	12	1	Peace Bridge	Humann
"	18; 24	1; 1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Thomas et al; Carpenter
"	18	1	Niagara Reservoir SP	Carlson
"	30	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
American Coot	2, 9	51, 152	Tifft NP	Watson
"	5; 9	540; 785	Iroquois NWR	Watson; D'Anna
"	12	500	S. Dayton	Fox
"	26	85	Chautauqua Lake	Berry
Black-bellied Plover	2	3	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	5	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	7L	3	Barre & Shelby	Morien
Semipalmated Plover	5L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
Killdeer	7	6	Shelby	Morien
<u>American Avocet</u>	12	1	S. Dayton	Fox
Greater Yellowlegs	12	1	Franklinville	Fox
Ruddy Turnstone	3L	1	Port Weller (Ont)	M. North
Sanderling	5	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	12L	8	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Yoerg
White-rumped Sand.	5L	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan, Black et al
Dunlin	5; 9; 19	3; 4; 6	Iroquois NWR	Watson; D'Anna; Morse
"	5	9	Fort Erie (Ont)	Jacklin
"	13	18	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	20	1	Goat I.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Wilson's Snipe	2; 9	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Fell; D'Anna
* Black-leg. Kittiwake	3F	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	21; 26	1 imm	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki; D'Anna et al
"	26; 27	1 imm	Whirlpool (Ont)	Carlson, Chapin; Yoerg
Little Gull	3; 13	1; 1 ad	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	10	1 ad	Queenston (Ont)	Vandermeulen, Bell
"	13; 20	1; 1	Lewiston	Potter, D'Anna; Watson
"	27	2	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2	Buffalo	Pawlicki
* Franklin's Gull	5 - 12	1	Artpark SP	D'Anna et al
"	6	1	Queenston (Ont)	Highcock, Hampton
"	20 - 27	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Carpenter et al
"	21	1	Devil's Hole SP	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Robert Moses Hydro	Pawlicki
Ring-billed Gull	26	280	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki et al
<u>California Gull</u>	13, 26	1 ad	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	20	1 ad	Goat I.	Mitchell, Young

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Herring Gull	12; 26	200; 940	Cuba Lake	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Iceland Gull	13F, 26	1, 5	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Thomas, Smith et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	5; 20	9; 4 ad	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter; Yoerg
"	20	1 ad+1 imm	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson
"	24	2 ad	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Carpentier et al
"	26	2	Cuba Lake	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
Glaucous Gull	26F	1	Robert Moses Hydro	Carlson
Common Tern	20	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki
Parasitic Jaeger	3	3	Fort Niagara SP	Carlson, Mitchell et al
"	6 – 18	1	Fort Niagara SP	Holloway
"	16	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
Jaeger species	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Carlson
"	26	1	Fort Niagara SP	Stiller
* <u>Razorbill</u>	8	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	12-26	1	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante
"	12	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
"	20	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
"	21	1	Fort Niagara SP	Goetz
Cuckoo sp.	7L	1	Cheektowaga	B&J Farnan et al
Long-eared Owl	6	1	Tonawanda	Fox
Short-eared Owl	21	3	East Shelby	Young
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	24	1	Fredonia	Horton
Northern Shrike	5	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Baird
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Brooks
"	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
Common Raven	3 - 25	1	Bennington	Beattie
"	13	1	Allegany SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	5	Ward	Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	2	2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19	1	Bethany	Pawlicki
"	25	2	Middleport	Watson, Pawlicki
Winter Wren	2	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	21	1	Amherst SP	Brooks
"	23	1	Alfred	Pawlicki, Watson
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Dart
Hermit Thrush	2	1	Alexander	Pawlicki
Northern Mockingbird	11	1	South Park, Bflo.	C. Smith
"	19	4	Tonawanda	Jacklin
Common Yellowthroat	6	1	Bemus Point	Fox
Hooded Warbler	1L	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Salembier, Pawlicki et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Berry
"	23	3	Williamsville	Brooks
Wilson's Warbler	10 - 30	1	Busti	Pawlicki, Watson
Eastern Towhee	5	1	Alfred	Watson, Pawlicki
Chipping Sparrow	1	1 banded	Tifft NP	Berry
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Field Sparrow	2	1	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
"	25	5	Tifft NP	Shulgina
Fox Sparrow	4	1	Joseph Davis SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	6	2	Tonawanda	Watson
"	6	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Swamp Sparrow	13	2	Alfred	Brooks
White-cr. Sparrow	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	5	110	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morien et al
"	5	19	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	5	3	Port Colborne (Ont)	B&J Farnan et al
"	5	20	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6, 13	4, 8	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Red-w. Blackbird	25	20	Darien Lakes SP	Young
Rusty Blackbird	5	20	Tillman Road WMA	Morgante
"	13	4	Alden	Mitchell
"	15	125	Oak Orchard WMA	Fox
"	23	1	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante et al
White-w. Crossbill	12F	59	Point Breeze	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	5	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Common Redpoll	6F	15	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Carpentier et al
"	24	15	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Pine Siskin	2	6	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	5	2		

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	60	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	12	10	Bennington	Horton
"	13	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	24	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Carpentier et al

Species, subspecies and named hybrids previously recorded:

284

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids (including October Count) recorded this month:

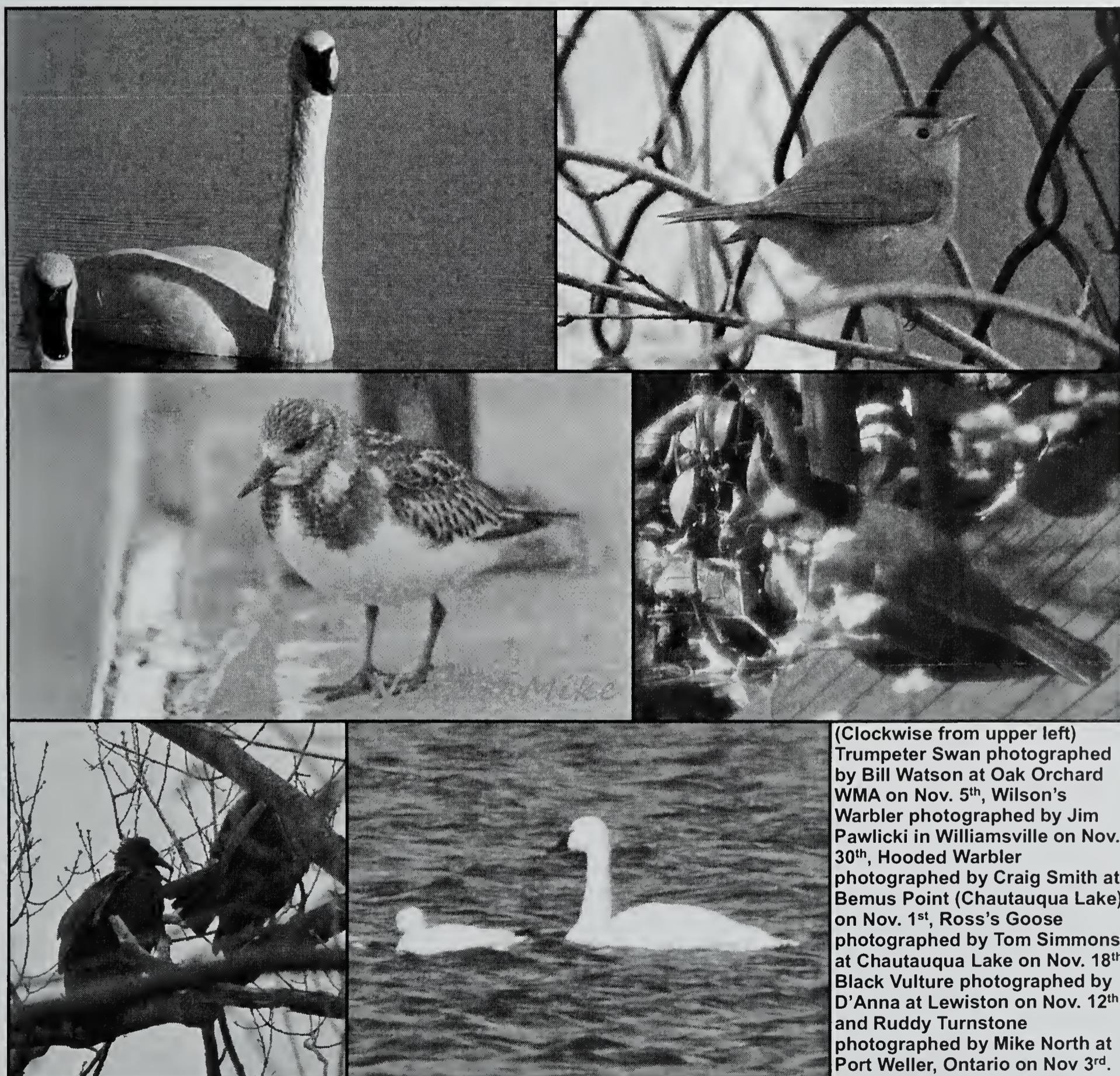
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Total for the year 2011 (to Date):

287

Apparent Hybrid Teal 5 1 Batavia WWTP Watson et al

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.





[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## February - April Calendar & Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Feb. 8: Wednesday, BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mark Whitmore, Forest Entomologist of the Department of Natural Resources of Cornell University will discuss "Invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer and How Bird Watchers Can Help With Its Management."

**Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg** (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting) and see what is migrating! Contact Jim Landau for additional info (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com))

**Mar. 4: Sun. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip.** Meet at 1:00 PM near the Save-a-Lot entrance at the Summit Park Mall on 6929 Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Bring your two-way radios. Leader: Chuck Rosenberg (716-655-0231, [crosenb@roadrunner.com](mailto:crosenb@roadrunner.com), cell phone: 716-622-3278)

**Mar. 14: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Joshua Stiller a recent graduate of the Syracuse School of Forestry, Satellite telemetry and ecology of Common Mergansers utilizing trout streams in southeastern New York.

**Mar. 31: Sat. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna 716-751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners, this is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

**Apr. 11: Wednesday, BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Marcie Jacklin will discuss the BOS October Count, David Gordon will discuss the BOS Christmas Count.

**BOS Special Projects Grants 2012 Application Deadline is March 31.** Every year the Buffalo Ornithological Society funds a number of projects that contribute either to ornithological research in our region or to efforts aimed at educating people about our local birds. In deciding how these funds are distributed, our first priority is to support studies that will make a positive impact on ornithological research. The second priority is education of the public about ornithology.

In most cases grants are limited to \$750 or less per applicant. Grant recipients must agree to report the outcome of funded efforts to the BOS. Typically, this involves a presentation at a BOS meeting, however occasionally a written report is accepted instead.

Applicants are invited to download the application form from the BOS website <http://www.buffaloornithologysociety.org/>, complete it and either scan it and e-mail it or send it to the chairperson of the special projects committee:

Dr Robert L. DeLeon  
381 Cadman Dr  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
[Rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:Rldeleon@yahoo.com)